Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you support the proposal to allow tsunami victims in Japan to temporarily relocate to the CNMI?

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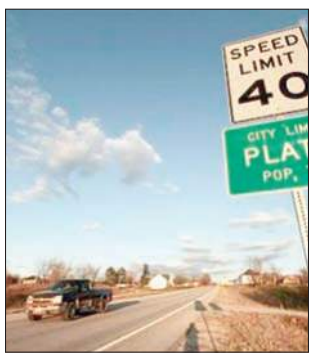

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In a nation of nearly 310 million, America's new population center rests in a tiny Missouri village.

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Medical Mission
The Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ 4th Watch's second medical mission is a success.

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CUC rate hike needed to meet stipulated order requirements

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s rate consultant, economists.com, has expressed support for the new rate hike petition, saying the money is needed to enable CUC to build the projects that are required under a stipulated order.

In its 15-page testimonial filed with the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, economists.com defended CUC's amended base rate proposals, saying the changes were made as a result of material revisions to CUC's revenue requirements.

CUC first asked the commission to allow it to increase its electric base rate in November 2010. It then amended its request on Dec. 8 and Feb. 9, followed by its latest request on March 9.

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New law limits to 30 number of alien workers at CUC

Fitial

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial approved "with reservation" a bill capping at 30 the number of foreign workers at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

These are only for engineers and professional employees in technical or trade areas at CUC.

The governor signed Sen. Juan Ayuyu's (Ind-Rota) Senate Bill 17-48

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Japan disaster likely to be the world's costliest

By TOMOKO A. HOSAKA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's government said the cost of the earthquake and tsunami that devastated the northeast could reach $309 billion, making it the world's most expensive natural disaster on record.

The extensive damage to housing, roads, utilities and businesses across seven prefectures has resulted in direct losses of between 16 trillion yen ($198 billion) and 25 trillion yen ($309 billion), according to a Cabinet Office estimate Wednesday.

The losses figure is considerably higher than other estimates. The World Bank on Monday said damage might reach $235 billion. Investment bank Goldman Sachs had estimated

See DISASTER on Page 4

Ex-detention guard to plead guilty in federal case

» Fitial agrees to face 10 years in prison

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Tyron Farley Reyes Fitial, the former detention guard at the Juvenile Detention Unit in Kagman accused of forcing three female wards to engage in sex acts, agreed yesterday to a plea deal that could subject him up to 10 years in prison.

Under the agreement signed with the U.S. government, the 25-year-old Fitial agreed to plead guilty to the charge of enticing a minor.

In exchange, the U.S. government will move to drop two other charges of deprivation of rights un-

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FIVE PROCLAMATIONS IN ONE DAY
Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, seated-center, joins advocates for a group photo after signing a proclamation declaring April 2011 Sexual Assault Awareness Month in the governor's conference room on Capital Hill yesterday. Inos also signed four other proclamations declaring April 2011 Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month, Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Awareness Month, Early Childhood Month, and Environmental Awareness Month.

See story on Page 4 HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Sales rep in reverse osmosis unit sale to plead guilty. PAGE 2
JSA names 10 CNMI recipients of program scholarships. PAGE 3

Local

3 more gold medalists for regional thespian tilt named

» CNMI's 15-member slate now complete, ready for nat'l competition

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Three more students were hailed gold medal awardees in the 2011 Thespian Regional Competition, completing the 15-member slate of the NMI Team to the national competition in Lincoln, Nebraska in June.

Harold Easton, chapter director for the Thespian Society in the Western Pacific Islands, announced yesterday that Chiantee Rossette of Marianas High School was adjudged overall winner in the monologue for senior division, while Kagman High School's Akiko Dela Cruz and Nicole Ichihara emerged gold medal winners in the duet acting category.

Saipan Tribune learned that Rossette bested four other competitors in the regional round, while Dela Cruz and Ichihara defeated four other pairs during the rigorous competition held early this month at Marianas High School.

The announcement of overall winners for these categories was delayed due to some technical issues that needed the board's action.

The initial 12 members of the NMI Team for the thespian national competition were named last March 5.

In the junior thespian division, the six gold medalists include Hopwood Junior High School's Mikhail Alcantara, who won first place in monologue; Hopwood's Jennella Nelmida, who topped the solo musical theater; San Antonio Elementary School's Mary Jane Pepito and Stephanie Lumbad, who won in mime; and Hopwood's Annabel Manzo and Christine Aninzo, who ruled the duet acting competition.

In the high school division, the five gold medal winners are Marianas High School's Darren Cajipo and Mariel Ferrer for mime and MHS' John Darag for solo musical theater.

Three MHS students also ruled the technical aspect of the thespian competition: Salvi Villanueva was adjudged gold medalist in the film category, Rozette Bunao for overall set design, and Rochelle Dimapolis as overall best costume design winner.

Organized by the National Forensic League board, 35 finalists vied for the prestigious awards during the whole day competition early this month.

According to Easton, the CNMI has been sending delegates to thespian national contest in the last 10 years.

Among the honors bestowed to previous CNMI team members included Top 8 in the nation for costume design and Top 4 in the nation for duet acting in 2007.

It was also adjudged Top 2 in the nation for costume design and Top 10 for solo musical in the 2008 national competition. A thespian scholarship for set design was also awarded to a CNMI student in 2007, along with the inclusion of a team member in the official videographers for the national festival.

"We've done extremely well the previous years and we're confident with our team this year. Seeing the commitment and dedication of our kids who were chosen among the bests on our islands, I have no doubt of the honors they would bring to us," said Easton.

Contenders in the thespian regional were the top performers in the contest categories during the first four preliminary rounds throughout the year, which were determined through accumulative points gained in each contest round.

Sales rep in reverse osmosis unit sale to plead guilty

A sales representative of the California-based company that supplied the Commonwealth Health Center its reverse osmosis water purification system for the new hemodialysis facility will plead guilty to the wire fraud charge filed against him in federal court.

Jesse Chung Wu and his counsel have also agreed with Alicia A.G. Limtiaco, U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the NMI, to transfer the case to the Central District of California.

"I wish to plead guilty to the offense charged, to consent to the disposition of the case in the Central District of California," said Wu, a resident of California.

Wu is a sales representative for Steven Services, a Torrance, Calif.-based company. Saipan Ice & Water Co. Inc. procured two reverse osmosis unit from STS through Wu.

In the U.S. government's case against Wu, it alleged that beginning July 2002 through March 8, 2006, Wu, devised a scheme to defraud Saipan Ice & Water Company Inc. by falsely representing that the reverse osmosis water purification unit he sold to Saipan Ice & Water Co. Inc. for delivery to CHC meets the Food and Drug Administration standards called 510(K).

Use of the non-FDA 510(K) reverse osmosis unit in dialysis treatment could reportedly have subjected the dialysis physicians to liability.

Prime contractor AIC Marianas, which won the contract to build the hemodialysis building, had subcontracted a portion of the work—which included the furnishing of two reverse osmosis units—to Saipan Ice & Water Co. Inc.

Wu allegedly received $2,000 commission from the transaction. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

NEW PARTY OFFICERS HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Press secretary Angel Demapan, right, takes a group photo of the re-elected officers of the Covenant Party at the party meeting and celebration of Covenant Day Thursday at the Minatchom Atdao pavilion in Susupe. From left, first vice chair Melvin Faisao, treasurer Emma Villagomez, president Greg "Kazuma" Camacho, secretary Miriam Seman, and second vice chair Martin Sablan.

Ex-convict gets $50 fine for pot possession

Superior Court Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona has ordered an ex-convict to pay a $50 fine and $10 court fee for illegal possession of marijuana.

Manglona, in a written judgment issued Tuesday, said the $200 cash bail that Wilson George Satoshi had posted on Feb. 17, 2011, is exonerated.

Manglona said the $50, however, shall be applied as payment for the fine and $10 for the court assessment fee.

The balance of $140, she said, will be returned to the posting party, Patrick M. Cepeda.

The Office of the Attorney General had charged the 42-year-old Satoshi with illegal possession of a controlled substance ("ice") and illegal possession of a controlled substance (marijuana).

Satoshi pleaded guilty to illegal possession of marijuana as part of a plea deal. The other charge was dismissed.

According to the plea agreement, on Oct. 20, 2010 on Saipan, Satoshi was found in unlawful possession of marijuana.

The police report stated that officers at the time were arresting suspected "ice" trafficker Mendel Techur, who was a passenger in a vehicle being driven by Satoshi.

Police officers found during the search of the vehicle "ice" paraphernalia and a bag of marijuana and another bag containing "ice."

Satoshi was then arrested.

Assistant attorney general Tiberius Mocanu said Satoshi was convicted of assault and battery, and disturbing the peace in separate cases in 1997.

Satoshi was also found committing a driver's license violation in a 2002 traffic case. He said Satoshi failed to appear for a review hearing in his traffic case and a bench warrant was issued on Nov. 5, 2002. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

House resolution honors late Nan Beck

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Rep. Rafael S. Demapan (Cov-Saipan) has introduced a commemorative resolution expressing condolences and sympathy to the bereaved family of the late Elizabeth "Nan Beck" Blanco Matsunaga.

Matsunaga

Commemorative Resolution 17-18 also pays tribute to Matsunaga, a well-respected and loved person who "will be forever remembered for her unselfishness, dedication and commitment in all her endeavors, and as a loving and caring mother, sister, neighbor, and friend."

Born on July 31, 1913, 97-year-old Matsunaga was believed to be the oldest person in the CNMI when she was called to her eternal rest on March 15.

The last of 13 siblings to depart this life, Matsunaga was blessed with a wonderful family: son Francisco "Minoru" Matsunaga; reared daughter Lucia Linda Blanco-Maratita; grandchildren Thomas, George, Ray, Elizabeth, Francis, and Devine; and numerous great grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

"A dedicated mother and grandparent, the late Elizabeth Blanco Matsunaga instilled in her children and family the importance of religion, strong family ties, and the value of culture," the resolution states.

Matsunaga was also an avid horticulturist, one of the first entrepreneurs on island, and also served as a tour guide for Japanese tourists aboard Wakai Nekko No Kai.

In her senior years, Matsunaga was involved with the Aging Center "where her punctuality, amazing sense of humor, and beautiful singing voice were much appreciated and will be deeply missed."

Fitial: Bill is as 'discriminatory' to homesteaders

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial vetoed on Wednesday a bill he describes as "discriminatory" to homestead permit holders.

Fitial vetoed Senate Bill 17-39, House Draft 2, which seeks to ensure that homestead permits of homesteaders killed while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces may bequeath such interest to their heirs. The bill seeks to amend 2 CMC 4310.

The governor said while he supports the intent of the bill, the amended language does not support the intended outcome and is discriminatory to other homestead recipients.

"It's punitive in nature to a homesteader who's dishonorably discharged as other homesteaders who may be convicted of a crime are not penalized in the same fashion," the governor said in his veto message to Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) and House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan).

Fitial said there is no clause for other homesteaders who commit dishonorable deeds to potentially lose their homesteads.

He said the amendment also presumably sets a different standard for armed services members in that the soldier is always on notice of possible revocation of his/her permit should he/she be called to active duty and is dishonorably discharged.

"Arguably, even after the armed services member has complied with all terms and conditions of the homestead permit, should he/she be called to active duty and thereafter is dishonorably discharged, he/she will lose the homestead permit," Fitial said.

The governor added that the amendment does not preserve the homesteads of soldiers on active duty or their heirs but rather punishes dishonorably discharged soldiers.

Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota), primary author of the vetoed bill, said he is a little disappointed but he respects the governor's decision to veto the measure.

"I was hoping the governor would be more sensitive to the needs of the men and women in uniform and their families. It saddens me that every time Veterans Day or Memorial Day comes, leaders say they support the men and women in uniform but this is one area where their support is needed… It is very different when you're serving in the military. We as leaders need to be more sensitive to the military personnel's needs," Ayuyu told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview.

Besides Ayuyu, the eight other senators also co-sponsored SB 17-39, HD2, or the "Supporting our Military Act of 2010."

The House amended the Senate bill to delete Section 4, pertaining to the Department of Public Lands' establishment of a veterans' park. The members voted on the amendment, citing the fact that under the Constitution, a bill could only contain one topic.

Inos says no exemptions from allotments cuts

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said yesterday there would be no exemptions from the planned 9 to 10 percent cuts in monthly allotments starting April, even as some lawmakers separately said they disagree with House Speaker Eli Cabrera's request to spare the Legislature from the cuts.

The allotment cuts will be applied until the end of fiscal year 2011 on Sept. 30.

"There won't be any exemption. The only thing that will be spared are constitutionally mandated salaries and program funding like the Northern Marianas College and the Public School System. That will have to be maintained and spared from the cuts," Inos said in an interview yesterday morning on Capital Hill.

Inos, who oversees government finances, said the Fitial administration will have a more concrete figure as to how much will be cut in the allotment of every department, agency or branch by Tuesday or Wednesday.

Cabrera (R-Saipan) asked Gov. Benigno R. Fitial in a March 18 letter to exempt the Legislature from the monthly allotment cut, citing the separation of powers between the Legislature and the Executive Branch.

Inos said the Fitial administration is cutting the monthly allotment starting next month because the $132 million revenue projected is not being met.

In the first five months of the fiscal year, for example, the government has been behind by $7 million to $8 million in projected revenue.

This is the reason behind the planned monthly cut in allotments, in proportion to the revenue stream coming in.

'Why should we be exempted?'

Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan) said he's "absolutely" opposed to exempting the Legislature from the allotment cuts, when other agencies and departments will be subjected to it.

"Again, when we are all hurting, we want to tell the people that we should be exempted? I will not be a part of this," Dela Cruz told *Saipan Tribune.*

House minority leader Diego Benavente (R-Saipan) said the fact that the $132 million projected revenue for the current fiscal year is not being met should be reason to reduce the monthly allotment.

Benavente said the allotment cuts "should have been done in January," given that the first quarter revenue collection was lesser by some $6 million than projected.

"If there's a need to reduce allocation, then the Legislature should be included. Why? Because first of all, it's the only agency [whose budget] was not reduced in this fiscal budget, and the only agency with increased leadership account. I don't think it's right that we should suggest that this Legislature should be exempt from the cut," Benavente added.

'Not as essential as others'

Benavente, a former lieutenant governor and speaker, said he hopes the speaker changes his position on the request for exemption.

"Because every time you do that, you're basically increasing the shortfall in all other agencies. I can tell you right now, the Legislature is certainly not as essential as public health, public safety or the Public School System," he said.

He said even before essential or critical government agencies will receive, the non-essential agencies should first receive a cut.

Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan), for his part, said the Legislature "should share in the 9 to 10 percent budget cut."

Inos

"Otherwise, we may violate the Constitution's balanced budget amendment by overspending," he said.

Benavente said he not only "totally disagrees" with the speaker on the exemption request, but also encourages the Fitial administration "to make the necessary allotment reduction."

He said allotment that will be cut from the Legislature, for example, could go toward the Retirement Fund, medical referral, or promotion of the CNMI as a tourism destination.

He said it's as if it's not enough that the Legislature was spared from the austerity Fridays, and that lawmakers did not get pay cuts because their salaries are constitutionally protected.

"Not only did we not join the sacrifice as everybody else did. We added additional money for the [legislative] leadership," he said in an interview yesterday.

Benavente said he voted "yes" with reservation on the fiscal year 2011 budget bill because of concerns with the measure's provisions, including the leadership account.

Budget law provision

Other lawmakers, however, cited Section 402 of the fiscal year 2011 budget law that requires the governor to seek approval from the Legislature to reduce appropriated funds.

Fitial, in signing the Public Law 17-21, pointed this serious concern in the budget measure that requires further legislative attention.

"If the Secretary of Finance reports that projected resources are decreasing, it would be distressing to know that the corresponding reduction in expenditure may be made only with legislative approval. This provision is irresponsible and fails to provide any logical intent for its inclusion in the passage. Moreover, it perpetuates the culture of deficit spending," the governor said.

Benavente said even if the budget law exempts the Legislature from allocation cuts, the administration has another option provided for in the Constitution that allows reduction based on a so-called "impoundment of resources," or the taking of resources from every resource in government during emergency or budget crisis.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), when asked for comment, said he has yet to fully review whether the law allows any agency, department or branch to be exempted from allotment cuts.

He said there are members who will understand the need to reduce the allotment if it is a result of reduced revenue, but not to cover up for the mismanagement or overexpenditure by other government agencies, departments, or branches of government.

The Legislature, for example, is the only branch of government that has not exceeded its budgetary allotment for five years or more.

Press secretary Angel Demapan earlier said the difficulty with granting the speaker's request "will result in increasing allotment cuts to the other branches of government."

He said in these difficult times, the administration tries to spread cuts across the board "so that all government functions can equally share in the "sacrifice."

The preparation for the scheduled allotment cut comes at a time when the Fitial administration's April 1 deadline to submit its FY 2012 budget to the Legislature is drawing near.

FOOTBALL CLUB
Members of Shirley's Football Club join the 2011 Kick Butts Day Parade held Thursday, March 24, 2011. The parade ended at the Hopwood Junior High School.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

JSA names CNMI recipients of summer program scholarships

» Each to receive scholarship worth $7,000

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Junior Statesmen Foundation announced yesterday the 10 recipients of the 2011 U.S. Department of the Interior, CNMI Public School System and the JSA Summer School scholarships.

Recipients from the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands for 2011 include:

- Kagman High School: Ana Ada, Allyssa Arangorin, Christopher Santos
- Marianas High School: Edu Mari Banaag, Deveney Dela Cruz, Liezel Tiples
- Tinian High School: Marquina Hofscheider
- Southern High School: Doyi Lee
- Calvary Christian: Midori Nishida
- Marianas Baptist Academy: Manatsu Omori

Each winner will receive a full-ride scholarship worth about $7,000 to pay for any tuition-related costs to attend one of JSA's summer schools on the mainland and in the People's Republic of China. The scholarships are made possible because of JSA's 20-year partnership with the U.S. Department of the Interior.

The chosen students demonstrated high grades, strong leadership skills, involvement in the community, and an interest in public service.

"We had dozens of strong applicants for the DOI Scholarships, making the selection process very difficult," said Jeff Harris, chief executive officer of The Junior Statesmen Foundation Inc. "The chosen students are among the best and brightest for the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands and will likely lead their communities in the future."

Receiving scholarships funded by the Department of Interior, Arangorin and Lee will attend the JSA Diplomat Program at Capitol Normal University in Beijing, China. Arangorin and Lee will be among the first students from the CNMI to attend the JSA program in China.

Also receiving Department of Interior scholarships, Banaag will attend JSA Summer School at Princeton University, Hofscheider will attend JSA Summer School at Stanford University, Omari will go to Princeton, and Santos will attend JSA Summer School at Georgetown University.

The CNMI Public School System funded two of the scholarships, won by Ada and Tiples, who will attend JSA Summer School at Princeton. The Junior Statesmen Foundation funded the scholarships of Dela Cruz and Nishida, who will attend Stanford.

JSA is continuing to accept CNMI students for its summer programs; the deadline for application is April 11. Non-scholarship CNMI students who have already been accepted to JSA Summer School include:

Kagman High School: Tasha Dela Cruz, Patsylynn Jetley, Elloise Lotoc, Jolisa Pangelinan, Reignna Mgriamolau

Grace Christian Academy: Angela Mamaril

Marianas High School: Genevieve Gottwald, Vinni Orsihi, Josifynn Rasa, Irishdale Radam

Rota High School: Babyie Hocog, Maisie Lynn Mesngon, Mariana Quitugua

Southern High School: Soo Jin Choi

Tinian High School: Chloe Hofschneider

Since 1991, JSA has worked in a partnership with the U.S. Department of the Interior to identify, educate and train more than 1,700 outstanding high school students in insular areas for active, effective and ethical participation in public affairs. The JSA Summer Schools build leadership skills and confidence for the next generation of insular leaders.

"We are delighted by the ongoing support of U.S. Rep. Kilili Sablan, the Legislature, the Governor's Office, and Commissioner Rita Sablan of PSS," said Harris.

The JSA Summer School features college-level courses in American Government, American History, International Relations, Constitutional Law, Economics, U.S. Foreign Policy, politics and the media, speech and political communication. JSA has been sponsoring summer schools since the 1940s and alumni include former U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese, former White House Press Secretary Mike McCurry, businessman Charles Schwab and hundreds of current leaders in politics, media, business and the law.

CNMI residents who are JSA Summer School alumni include Christine-Marie Elise Sablan, a former CNMI legislator, and Janet Han King, former CNMI public defender who is an attorney at law.

For more information about JSA summer program, or to make scholarship donations, contact Elliott Nguyen, director of International Programs, at enguyen@jsa.org or call 800-317-9338. ***(JSA)***

5 proclamations signed in 1 day

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos signed five different sets of proclamations yesterday. They included the declaration of April 2011 Environmental Awareness Month, as well as April 2011 Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Awareness Month.

The three other proclamations signed declare April 2011 Early Childhood Month, Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month, and Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

This year's theme for the Environmental Awareness Month, "Invest in the Real Green…Our Environment," forces the responsibility to maintain and protect the shared environment.

Division of Environmental Quality director Frank Rabauliman led DEQ personnel and other environmental-related agencies and volunteers on hand to witness the day's first proclamation signing. April 22 was also designated CNMI Earth Day.

The lieutenant governor, in his second proclamation signing for the day, said the Early Childhood Month also celebrates the "Week of the Young" from April 10 to 16.

This is an opportunity for early childhood programs across the country including child care and Head Start programs, preschools and elementary schools, to hold activities to bring awareness to the needs of young children.

After signing the proclamation, Inos asked agencies for an update on their programs and services.

Jolene G. Torres, manager of the Family and Community Partnership program, said the Head Start program currently serves 462 children. She said 328 of them are eligible for enrollment at kindergarten in the next school year.

Maribel Loste of the Childcare Program, for her part, said they have some 392 children aged 0 to 13 in the program.

Loste said a $13 million nationwide cut in childcare and early childhood program funding may have an impact on the CNMI's program.

Strengthening families

Community and Cultural Affairs secretary Melvin Faisao said one of the goals of observing Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month is strengthening families.

Inos, in his proclamation, said all citizens should become involved in supporting families to provide safe, nurturing environments for their children, giving them the opportunity to grow up to be caring, contributing members of the community.

Inos said he and Gov. Benigno R. Fitial "concur" DCCA's nominees to the Community Service Block Grant Advisory Council, for submission to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Community Service under the Administration for Children and Families.

They include: Rep. Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), Jeffrey Olopai, Tom Glen Quitugua, Pedro Sablan Jr., Carmen Tanaka, Angelica Mangarero, Audrey Dutro, Trinidad Rabauliman, Maribel Loste, Debra Inos, and Dr. Elizabeth Rechebei.

'It's time to get involved'

This year's theme for Sexual Assault Awareness Month, "It's time to get involved," challenges everyone to explore common, everyday behaviors that can be adopted as responsible ways to intervene when sexual violence occurs.

Kiki S. Igitol, chair of the Sexual Assault Awareness Month committee, said the month-long observance seeks to "engage bystanders in sexual violence prevention."

"It is to also encourage us as members of our community to speak out and condemn sexual violence. Sexual violence is a violent crime that is underreported to law enforcement, with Asian/Pacific islanders being the least likely to report," Igitol said.

One in six women and one in 33 men will be a victim of sexual assault in their lifetime.

Igitol said statistics show that 77 percent of completed rapes and sexual violence are committed by someone who is known to the victim.

"Shame, fear, and stigma are the paramount reasons why 60 percent to 80 percent of victims don't report the sexual assaults," she said.

Neda Camacho, board chair of the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, said awareness of sexual violence is the first step toward prevention, and will lead to safer families, relationships, neighborhoods, communities, campuses, and workplaces. Board vice chair Keiko Odashiro shared some of the services rendered to victims as well as training available for social service providers.

Detective Peter Aldan of the Department of Public Safety read the proclamation, while Emergency Medical Services training coordinator Antonio Kapileo enumerated the activities planned for the month.

Dealing with underage drinking

Inos, in his proclamation, said 2010 data shows that minors consuming alcohol remains one of the highest offenses committed by juveniles in the CNMI, which often leads to more serious delinquent offenses.

In 2010, the CNMI Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Task Force conducted is first ever series of compliance check operations. Out of 54 establishments checked, nine violators were arrested, cited and prosecuted. The task force, which received the 2010 National Success Story Awards, said it will expand its efforts in 2011.

The legal drinking age in the CNMI is 21 and above.

Thomas J. Camacho said the task force will press for the passage of House Bill 17-17, which will impose stricter penalties on violations of the underage drinking law, among other things.

He said the bill is still under the review of the House Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee.

Department of Public Health's Margaret Aldan said the task force needs to work with the community because minors have easy access to alcohol during gatherings such as picnics and birthday parties.

CJPA's Jerome Ierome, for his part, said adults should not let their children get their parents' drinks for them.

Others said better yet, don't drink at all or if adults would want to drink, they should at least not drink in front of minors.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy sweet 16 to Roman John P. Camacho! We hope you enjoy your very special day and wishing you many more to come. Greetings from the entire family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

DISASTER

From Page 1

quake damage would be as much as $200 billion.

If the government's projection proves correct, it would top the losses from Hurricane Katrina. The 2005 megastorm that ravaged New Orleans and the surrounding region cost $125 billion, according to the Insurance Information Institute.

Japan's estimate does not include the impact of power shortages triggered by damage to a nuclear power plant, so the overall economic impact could be even higher. It also leaves out potential global repercussions.

"The aftermath of the tragic events in Japan will obviously alter the domestic economy," said Takuji Aida, an economist at UBS Securities Japan, in a report. "However, Japan's position in the global economy is such that there must also be some transmission of the shock to other parts of the world."

The Cabinet Office suggested, however, that the economic hit could be softened by the expected upswing in public works and construction as the region rebuilds.

The 9.0-magnitude quake and tsunami on March 11 laid waste to Japan's northeastern coast, killing thousands of people and triggering a crisis at a nuclear power plant. Tens of thousands of people living near the plant were evacuated.

Utilities have imposed power rationing, many factories remain closed and key rail lines are impassable.

RATE HIKE

From Page 1

The consultant pointed out that CUC needs about $16 million to meet the oil-related requirements of stipulated order 2. While CUC did obtain a $4.05 million grant from the Department of the Interior for SO2 projects, this money has now been substantially exhausted. CUC, it said, still must proceed with the remaining projects.

Economists.com cited key factors that were considered in the new rate proposal, including the lack of funding to complete the oil pipeline project—one of CUC's most critical and immediate funding need at this time. This project costs $2.4 million and must be completed by the end of 2011.

"CUC recognizes that it has additional funding obligations to meet stipulated order requirements, but at this time CUC does not have full engineering cost estimates for the identified SO projects," said the consultant.

It said CUC believes that the only projects that have both a reliable cost estimate and immediate need for completion are the pipeline, remediation at power plants 1 and 2, and the backup oil tank for Tank 103.

According to CUC deputy director for power systems Wallon Young Fong, the construction of the oil pipeline has already been contracted for about $1.8 million. He admitted that no funding has been identified for this project—one of the highest priorities of EPA, which is requiring it to be built by June 1, 2011.

For the remediation projects at power plants 1 and 2, Fong estimates the project to cost $2.75 million, including those on Rota. The project, he said, could go up to $10 million.

For tank repairs and replacement, Fong said about $2.8 million is needed.

"Accordingly, CUC is late with its high priority projects because CUC's lack of funds has hindered its ability to perform on time," added Fong.

Impact

According to economists.com, CUC customers will bear the impact of the new rate petition. If approved next month, the new base rate will take effect on May 11.

The proposed new rates are:

- For residential customers using 250 kWh, they will pay an additional $4.21 monthly—a 6.2 percent increase from the existing monthly charge of $68.62 against the proposed $72.63 per month.
- For commercial users consuming 250 kWh, the increased monthly charge is $12.87, or 14.6 percent; for government agencies using same amount of kWh, about $13.37 will be added to their monthly bill;
- For residential costumers using 500 kWh monthly, their current $131.23 billing will increase to $137.19—an additional of $5.96. Commercial users of 500 kWh will see 13.3 percent increase in monthly charges; while government agencies using the same volume will experience a 13.7 percent increase in their billing;
- For 1,000 kWh users, residential customer will experience an additional $20.46 monthly charge; commercial, $41.37; government, $43.37 per month.

NEW LAW

From Page 1

into Public Law 17-36 on Wednesday.

Fitial said CUC currently employs more than 30 foreign national workers and the transition period to replace the foreign national workers with qualified U.S. citizens or permanent residents may be insufficient.

"I urge the Legislature to revisit this measure and further amend it as necessary," he said in his message to the presiding officers of the Legislature.

CUC is currently unable to employ foreign national workers to fill certain essential positions because of restrictions under Public Law 15-108.

Ayuyu, in his bill, said CUC is unable to fill these essential positions with permanent resident or citizen employees at this time, and extension of the exemption for hiring foreign national workers within the CNMI government is necessary to ensure the delivery of uninterrupted power, water and wastewater services.

The new law says during the period of exemption, CUC shall use all efforts to find and train U.S. citizens or permanent residents to fill positions covered by the exemption.

It said should CUC require a future exemption, it will be entitled to one and only with the Department of Labor's certification.

Labor has to certify that CUC has used good faith efforts to train or hire U.S. citizen or permanent resident candidates without success.

As part of this certification, CUC shall show and the Department of Labor shall certify that despite offering competitive pay and benefits similar and even better than U.S. utility operators, CUC is unable to attract qualified workers.

"Any future exemptions shall be limited to 50 percent of this current exemption of 30 workers, and shall be limited to an additional one year. This exemption shall expire on September 30, 2012, and no contract may provide to the contrary," the law says.

The governor has been extending the state of emergency declaration for CUC every month since August 2008, citing continued lack of legislative relief to, among other things, allow CUC to hire non-U.S. citizens to work on power, water, and wastewater systems.

Fitial has been reiterating that a shortage of manpower caused by a law that limits skilled foreign workers has continued to place CUC operations at risk.

Unless the legislative restriction on hiring foreign workers for government agencies like CUC is lifted, Fitial said the administration will be forced to retain the emergency declaration so that CUC could continue to tap foreign skilled workers and experts. He said the local/U.S. citizen pool of skilled workers remains limited.

GUARD

From Page 1

der color of law.

Fitial's lawyer, Joseph Camacho, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that Fitial made the decision to accept the plea bargain with the support of his family members.

"I am ready to go to trial. But it is ultimately Mr. Tyron Fitial's life that hangs in the balance, so I understand and respect his decision to accept 10 years instead of gamble and perhaps end up with a longer jail term," Camacho said.

The lawyer said there are many factors why a defendant chooses to accept a plea bargain rather than go to trial.

Some reasons, he said, are to cooperate with the prosecutors to go after others who are more culpable or are committing other crimes.

"Other reasons are to limit the sentence, for example, in this case where the possible jail term is 30 years to life, Mr. Tyron Fitial has opted to accept a plea agreement with a sentence of 10 years," Camacho said.

He said a change of plea date is being scheduled "in the very near future."

Camacho said the plea agreement covers only the federal court case, but that they are also working with the CNMI's Office of the Attorney General to resolve the case pending in the Superior Court.

According to the plea agreement, between October 2009 and February 2010, Fitial, who was then a guard at the Juvenile Detention Unit, made telephone calls from the facility to a residence.

During one or more of these calls, Fitial spoke to a female who had not yet reached 16 years old and made sexually suggestive comments in an attempt to get her to meet with him.

Fitial did, in fact, meet with the girl at a later time and engaged in sexual acts involving penetration, the agreement states.

Commonwealth law prohibits any person 16 years of age or older from engaging in sex with a person who is 13, 14, or 15 years of age and at least three years younger than the offender.

At the time Fitial was 25 years old.

In the Superior Court case, the OAG had filed 11 criminal charges against Fitial over the same incidents.

Chief Prosecutor Michael L. Ernest charged Fitial with five counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree, two counts of unlawful exploitation of a minor, one count of assault and battery, one count of misconduct in public office, one count of failure to report child abuse or neglect, and one count of sexual servitude of a minor.

Rescued Rota mariners return; boat still at sea

GUAM—Three mariners from Rota who were rescued at sea on Thursday were tired but in good health when they were returned to land on Saipan by the crew of the M/V *Super Shuttle*. The mariners, all from Rota, were the only people onboard the 21-foot boat named the *Sea Hawk*. The capsized vessel remains a hazard to navigation, and mariners are asked to keep a lookout for it in the vicinity of Goat Island, between Rota and Tinian.

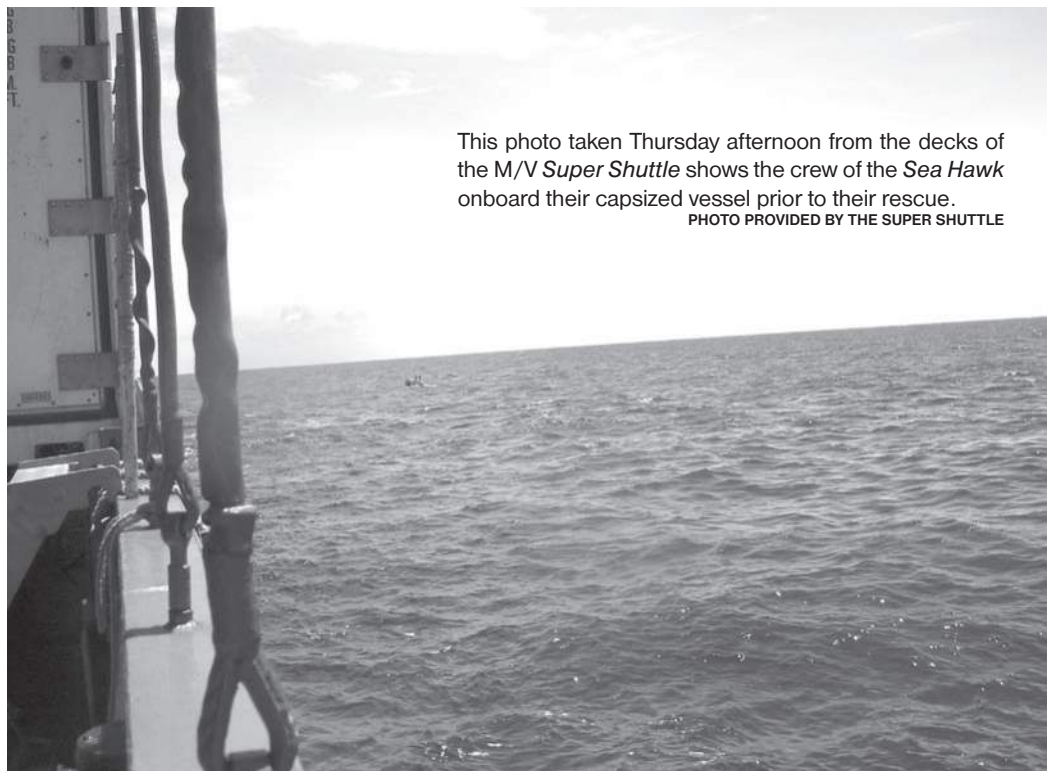
U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam search and rescue controllers received the report Thursday of the rescue of the three mariners of the *Sea Hawk*. The boat capsized that morning 13 miles southwest of Goat Island after it was overcome by a large wave while the mariners had stopped their engine to re-rig fishing lines. Once in the water, the mariners quickly saw and tried to signal a passing aircraft using two flares. It is not known whether the aircraft saw the signals.

Later, about 1pm, the mariners sighted the *Super Shuttle*, which was en route from Guam to Saipan, and waved lifejackets to get the attention of the *Super Shuttle*'s crew.

The *Sea Hawk* had departed Rota before dawn with another boat when it stopped en route to fish. The other vessel continued the voyage to Tinian. Family on shore on Rota, who had been expecting the *Sea Hawk* to arrive on Tinian, called the other vessel's crew on Tinian to check on the arrival of the *Sea Hawk*.

The *Sea Hawk* is described as having a beige-colored hull with an open front and aft section and a canopy over the steering station. The mariners attached life jackets covered with retro-reflective tape to the bow and stern of the *Sea Hawk* to identify it.

Mariners are asked to keep a sharp lookout for the capsized *Sea Hawk*, which is a hazard to navigation and a pollution risk, and make reports on its position to the Coast Guard Sector Guam Command Center at 671-564-USCG to aid in its recovery. ***(USCG)***



This photo taken Thursday afternoon from the decks of the M/V *Super Shuttle* shows the crew of the *Sea Hawk* onboard their capsized vessel prior to their rescue.
PHOTO PROVIDED BY THE SUPER SHUTTLE

24 Bank of Guam branches accepting relief donations

HAGATNA, Guam—The Japan Club of Guam Relief Account has been established with Bank of Guam and all of the Bank's branches are accepting donations going toward the Japan Relief effort.

Contributions may be made at the following Guam branches: Andersen Air Force Base, Naval Station, Yigo, Dededo, Harmon, Upper Tumon, Tumon, Tamuning, Hagatna, Mangilao, Malesso, and Santa Cruz.

Contributions are also being accepted at the following branches:

- Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas branches: Garapan, Joeten Superstore, San Antonio facility, Rota, and Tinian.
- Federated States of Micronesia: Chuuk, Pohnpei, Kosrae, Yap.
- Republic of the Marshall Islands: Majuro.
- Republic of Palau.
- San Francisco, California.

Bank of Guam, together with Guam Visitors Bureau, Delta Air Lines and IP&E, is sponsoring last night's candlelight vigil at Ypao Beach at 6pm.

Bank of Guam is also providing a collection site and coin counting machine to assist with the Guam Legislature's coin collection effort with local schools in support of the Japan Relief effort. ***(BOG)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Bank of Guam is assisting with the Guam Legislature's coin collection effort with local schools in support of the Japan relief effort. Photo shows, from left, Vicky Quenga, Speaker Won Pat's Office; Courtney Jae Santos, Tamuning Elementary student; Roque Ray Santos, Tamuning Elementary student; Sherlyn Cruz, LBJ Elementary staff and mother of Courtney and Roque; Herbie Perez, Speaker Won Pat's Office; and Eleanor Climaco, Astumbo Elementary.

$27K funding bill goes to Fitial for signature

A local bill appropriating $27,000 to the island of Rota awaits the governor's signature after it was unanimously passed by the Rota Legislative Delegation on March 16.

House Local Bill 17-36, S1, authored by Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota), identifies local license fees for poker and pachinko slot machines as its funding source.

Of the said amount, $9,450 will fund seven dialysis and terminally ill patients as allowance of $450 each for three months.

Another $5,400 will be allocated to six other dialysis and terminally ill patients for $300 each for three months.

A total of $8,150 will be allotted for the operations of the Rota Municipal Council.

The rest of the appropriated funding will be used for compensation of affected employees under Public Law 7-31 or the Commonwealth Compensation Adjustment and Salary Act of 1991, $1,500; Rota Municipal Scholarship Foundation, $1,500; freight charges for the shipping of tax documents to Saipan, $500; and for advertisements with Rota Channel 5, $500.

The Rota mayor will have the expenditure authority for the dialysis patients, the freight charges, and advertisements. ***(Clarissa David)***

UOG Modern Language Festival today

Modern Language students taking Chamorro, Chinese, French, Japanese, Spanish, and Tagalog language classes will be giving oral and visual presentations today, March 26, from 10am to 4pm in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences Humanities and Social Sciences Bldg.

Entertainment in song, puppetry, dance, and film in the different languages will also be presented in the CLASS Lecture Hall.

Two cherry blossom trees will be posted on the wall of the entrance to the atrium of the HSS Building and the other on the wall of the lobby of the CLASS Lecture Hall that day as part of the Modern Language Festival's tribute to the victims of the earthquake, tsunami and radiation exposure in Japan.

For every dollar donated, an origami cherry blossom in pink, white, red, or orange hues will be placed on the tree with the donor's name on it.

The event is free and open to the public. For further information, Peter R. Onedera, chairman and organizer of the event may be contacted at 735-2808 or at ponedera53@yahoo.com. ***(PR)***

Kretzers inducted back to Rotary

Dickerson & Quinn's Max Kretzers vowed to exemplify the ideals of the Rotary Club of Saipan and Rotary International after being inducted back to the organization on Tuesday.

"I will faithfully discharge all my duties in a way that will exemplify the foundation principle of Rotary which is service above self," Kretzers said during his oath administered by Rotarian Dave Igitol.

Kretzers, who arrived in the region in 1990, initially worked with Continental Airlines followed by a short stint at Pacific Island Aviation.

Kretzers now serves as the general manager for D&Q, a privately owned international distributor of consumer and food products headquartered in Guam and focused on exports to Saipan, Micronesia, and the major trading centers of the Pacific Rim.

According to Kretzers, D&Q represents primarily U.S. companies such as Procter & Gamble, Unilever, and Kellogs.

"We're fortunate that we're riding at this tough time a little better than many because we have such excellent brands," he said, adding that the company has been taken over by Tan Holdings about three years ago.

"I married and remarried here on Saipan and I'm here to stay," said Kretzers. ***(Clarissa David)***

CLARISSA DAVID
Dickerson & Quinn's Max Kretzers is sworn in by Rotarian Dave Igitol as the newest member of the Rotary Club of Saipan during the club's Tuesday meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Military sets Farallon de Medinilla training

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on the following dates and times:

- March 28-30, from 8am to 8:45pm
- March 31-April 1, from 8:15am to 8:45pm

The public, especially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour operators, are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides access frequency that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. ***(USN)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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Obama's Libya war is unwise

By MATTHEW ROTHSCHILD
THE PROGRESSIVE MEDIA PROJECT

President Obama's decision to wage war on Libya is unconstitutional, naive and hypocritical.

Our founders would be appalled that a president of the United States could launch the country into an armed conflict half a world away without a formal declaration of war by Congress, much less barely any discussion of it by the House or the Senate.

Article 1, Section 8 of our Constitution is unambiguous: Only Congress has the authority "to declare war." James Madison warned that allowing the president to take the country into war would be "too much of a temptation for one man." We, as Americans, need to face facts: We have a runaway executive branch when it comes to war-making.

And Obama appears naive in the extreme on Libya.

It is naive to expect U.S. involvement in this war to be over in "days, not weeks," as he said.

It is naive to expect that he can carry this out without using ground troops.

It is naive to wage war that is not in response to a direct threat to the U.S. national security.

It is naive to expect all of Libya to cheer as its country is being attacked by Western powers.

It is naive to expect civilian casualties not to mount as a result of his actions, which he said were designed "to protect Libyan civilians."

And it is naive to expect the world to go along with the ruse that this is not a U.S.-led act of aggression.

Finally, Obama's stated reasons for this war, which he refuses to call by its proper name, are hypocritical and incoherent.

He said "innocent men and women face brutality and death at the hands of their own government." That's also true of the people of Yemen, an ally of ours. The regime there just mowed down dozens of peaceful protesters.

That's true, too, of the people of Bahrain, another friend of ours. The ruling monarchy has recently killed a number of peaceful demonstrators there, as well.

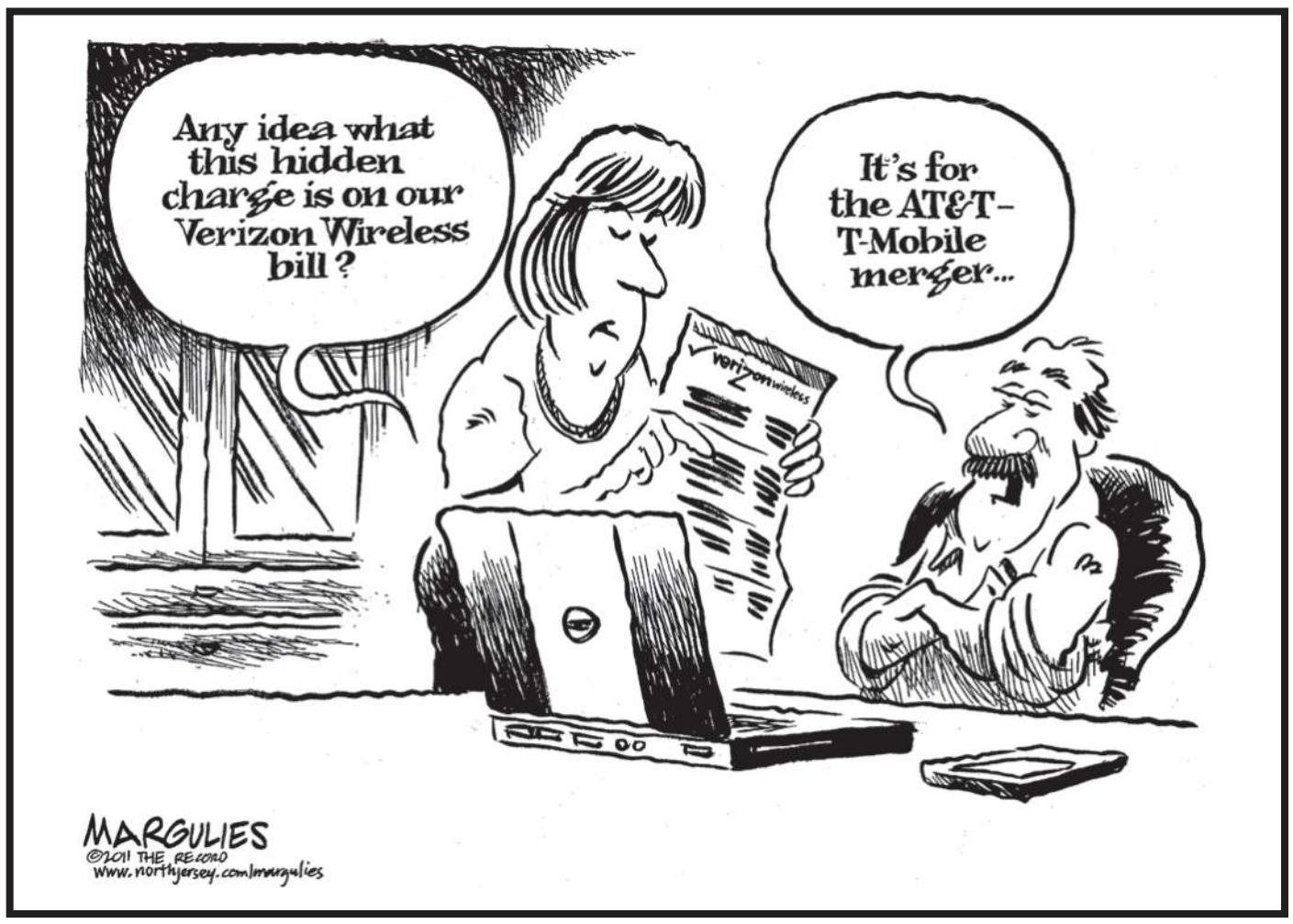
Then there's the kingdom of Saudi Arabia, our chief Arab partner and a profoundly repressive government, which just rolled its tanks into Bahrain to help put down a pro-democracy movement in that country.

There is no consistent humanitarian standard for Obama's war against Libya—none whatsoever.

Obama has now pushed the United States to a place where we are now engaged in three wars simultaneously at a time when we have enormous domestic needs that are going unmet. It's getting to the point where war seems to be the only thing we make these days.

We need to stop meddling overseas and start solving our own problems here at home.

Matthew Rothschild is the editor of The Progressive *magazine (www.progressive.org) in Madison, Wis. He wrote this for Progressive Media Project, a source of liberal commentary on domestic and international issues; it is affiliated with The Progressive magazine.*



Behind Obama's risky humanitarian mission in Libya

By TRUDY RUBIN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

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Here's a crucial fact that you may not realize, given the week's headlines: Libya is only a tragic sideshow to the historic events in the Middle East.

Egypt is the place that counts when we consider the prospects for Arab democracy. Bahrain is the locale where Iran and the Saudis are contesting for power. Yemen, whose president is about to fall, is the country where a strong al-Qaeda branch is based.

So, it's essential that Libya not divert scarce U.S. resources from where they are needed. Any protracted involvement will distract our focus from more essential Mideast states that require attention. Yet, given the unplanned way President Obama embarked on this venture, I fear that's where we are headed.

Unless Obama gets very lucky, we are enmeshed in a new Mideast war.

To understand why, we must revisit how we got mixed up in Libya in the first place. For weeks Obama resisted any military involvement, for good reasons: Libya was not critical to U.S. security or Arab democracy and produces only 2 percent of the world's oil. And we still have tens of thousands of troops in two Muslim countries.

As Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates bluntly told West Point cadets last month, any U.S. leader who sent American troops into another Mideast war "should have his head examined."

So who or what changed the president's mind?

The buzz in Washington gives credit (or blame) to three women. Intervention was pushed by the National Security Council's human-rights expert, Samantha Power, who studied U.S. failures to stop mass murder in Bosnia and Rwanda, and by U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice, who pushed (unsuccessfully) for U.S. intervention in Darfur. Power and Rice supposedly won over a reluctant Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton just as Moammar Gadhafi's troops were about to erase the last rebel stronghold in Benghazi.

I, too, believe a looming humanitarian crisis changed Obama's mind. But there are far worse humanitarian crises where we have avoided any intervention, especially when they involve civil warfare. So why Libya?

My guess is Obama's about-face was driven by two factors: the CNN/al-Jazeera/Facebook effect, and the over-the-top rhetoric of Libya's leader.

Much of the Mideast press corps moved en masse from Egypt across the border into Libya after Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak fell. So they were on hand to tell the tragic tales of beleaguered Libyan rebels and to broadcast video images forwarded by trapped civilians.

Then Gadhafi threatened to "show no mercy" to the rebels in Benghazi: This meant he might conduct a civilian slaughter in full view of the entire Arab region and the world—with Obama standing passively by.

This looming prospect galvanized Obama into an instant decision. It also embarrassed Arab leaders into endorsing an Arab League vote that called for a no-fly zone over Libya. With the Arab League vote in hand, U.S. officials were able to muster a U.N. Security Council vote for a no-fly zone.

But an understandable humanitarian decision is already turning into a trap.

A no-fly zone may save Benghazi, but it can't get rid of Gadhafi. What looms is a stalemate: U.S. or NATO planes must patrol indefinitely to prevent Gadhafi from going back on the attack.

No-fly zones over Bosnia and Kosovo never removed the Serbian leaders who committed carnage against civilians. Both required more military action. The no-fly zone protecting Iraqi Kurds and Shiites continued for more than a decade, until Saddam Hussein was overthrown on the ground in 2003.

Surely Obama must know this. Yet he seems to be banking on a palace coup to unseat Gadhafi. That could happen, but what if it doesn't?

Already, some neoconservatives are calling for the United States to send in special forces to train the Libyan rebels, and ensure that the rebels receive better weapons. They make comparisons to Afghanistan: Never mind that the Libyans are inexperienced and ill-trained, unlike the Afghan Northern Alliance, which we helped to overthrow the Taliban.

Neocons are also pushing plans for post-Gadhafi nation-building that sound uncannily familiar. Believe me, trying to do an Iraq redux will not achieve better results.

Neither Obama nor the Pentagon wants to expand U.S. military action. As the chairman of the Joint Chiefs, Adm. Mike Mullen, told NBC, the mission is "narrow in scope" and "focused on humanitarian efforts." Added Mullen, "The president's been very clear that we're not going to put any boots on the ground."

I hope that's true. I understand the humanitarian imperative that got our planes flying. And I know the president hopes to hand off those continued flights to our European allies.

But Gadhafi, who has billions in cash stashed in Libya to pay his fighters, has little incentive to go into exile. I find it hard to foresee how this high-minded venture will end.

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Getting the upper hand on nature

By GREGORY RODRIGUEZ
Los Angeles Times

Gregory Rodriguez is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times*. Readers may send him e-mail at grodriguez@latimescolumnists.com.*

Maybe John Muir was a fool.

Muir, the godfather of contemporary environmentalism, was among the first activists to proclaim the "oneness" of humans and the natural world and to insist that we seek to live in harmony with our surroundings. So convinced was he of nature's essential goodness that once during a temblor, he ran out of his cabin at midnight crying "a noble earthquake! A noble earthquake!"

But after the events of the last week in Japan, it's hard to see his point.

For the last half-century, Americans have been atoning for the environmental sins of their forefathers, essentially buying into Muir's worldview. Before the 1960s, the average person generally assumed that human culture—civilization—was an all-around force for good in the world. Indeed, few educated people would have questioned Sigmund Freud's dictum that the "principal task of civilization, its actual raison d'etre, is to defend us against nature."

But postwar prosperity, the emergence of post-materialist values, the advent of the car culture that allowed us to visit our national parks and the publication of Rachel Carson's anti-pesticide manifesto "Silent Spring" all converged to raise the idea of environmental protection in the public consciousness.

This new environmentalism, aligned with the counterculture of the 1960s and '70s, turned the tables. The growing awareness of human mismanagement of the Earth—air pollution, endangered species, climate change—inspired people to see human civilization as more of a detriment than a blessing. The need to protect nature from humans supplanted the need to protect humans from nature. Rather than viewing ourselves as overlords of the Earth, we increasingly came to see ourselves, in the Muir-like words of environmental activist Howard Zahniser, "as part of the system of nature, not demigods above or outside it."

One might think that the Japanese earthquake and tsunami would further our sense of humility in the face of nature. But the earthquake and the tsunami—as well as Hurricane Katrina, the Indian Ocean tsunami and tragic earthquakes in Pakistan, Haiti and New Zealand—might also have the opposite effect. In the wake of these catastrophes, Americans could revert to the old-fashioned impulse to master nature.

"When you encounter large-scale natural disasters, you recognize how much of our security and well-being is secured by competent engineering," a liberal Washington journalist tweeted and told me last week. In other words, when nature turns on us once too often, we may decide it's better to fight back than to defer.

That sentiment was expressed last January during Australia's devastating floods. Columnist Chris Gardiner, who contributes to a News Corp. commentary site called The Punch, reacted to the devastation by arguing that humans "should resist the naive nature worship" and "seek to direct and pacify its destructive outbursts."

Not surprisingly, the National Academy of Engineering would agree. In 2007, it issued a report examining social and governmental responses to recent natural disasters. It concluded that our best chance of dealing with threats from nature was tackling them head on, through "better engineering."

This message resonates with the work of journalist David Owen, author of "Green Metropolis," and urbanist and Harvard economist Edward Glaeser. Both argue that the best way to cope with dangerous environmental deterioration is not to scale back our cities—one of our primary imprints on the land—but to scale them up, building more high-rises, more extensive transit networks and generally taking a stronger hand in engineering our environment. As Glaeser writes, the architects and developers of giant skyscrapers "are better guides to a greener future than Henry David Thoreau."

Ironically, the Japanese might be the ones who can lead us into this less naive and more aggressive stance. With a long tradition of respecting nature's majesty as well its destructive force, Japan is among the most engineered yet environmentally conscious countries in the world.

Despite the death toll and the ruins, Japan's approach no doubt saved many lives. The fact that its imperiled nuclear reactors were still standing after an earthquake thousands of times stronger than predicted is a testament to that.

Our response to this tragedy, then, shouldn't be to hail the nobility of the earthquake a la John Muir but to redouble our efforts, however imperfect, to tame the Earth.

No you're not in control; get over it

By JOHN KASS
Chicago Tribune

John Kass is a columnist for the Chicago Tribune*. Readers may send him e-mail at jskass@tribune.com.*

Will rushing out to buy bags of table salt, then shoveling handfuls of it down your throat, really protect you from an impending Japanese nuclear meltdown?

It might make you feel better for a few seconds, until you stroke out.

Even so, some folks in China got the strange idea that eating several pounds of iodized salt at one sitting could help shield them from radiation emitted by the nuclear reactors damaged in the recent Japanese earthquake and tsunami.

The salt-as-savior rumors raced through China, feeding the Chinese salt-panic, spiking the price by a factor of six, forcing salt purchase limits and driving store employees crazy.

"Salt is not available in any of the shops," moaned Dong Linhua, a 57-year-old factory worker in Shanghai, according to one of the gazillion news reports on the Chinese salt panic.

"There have been many people queuing to buy iodized salt in our store," said a clerk in Guangzhou. "We have to control it. One client can only buy two bags of salt."

But salt isn't some magic powder or mystical shield. And it won't stop the Japanese nuclear reactors from getting you.

There is real life-and-death science going on in Japan as engineers work on those damaged reactors, risking radiation poisoning.

And there is no magic or mysticism in the reactors. The engineers who've been working on them wear those thin suits, and there is gamma radiation all around, and for days they've been trying to do what they can.

But then there is that other kind of science. Not real science but the belief in science as magic. For some it's salt. For others it's a little pill.

Yes, it sounds ridiculous, but it's also human nature, and human nature is often ridiculous.

It is ridiculous to think that we can exert control over the world, that if we take certain precautions, take that certain pill or eat handfuls of salt, we can somehow protect ourselves from disaster.

We know this is false, but knowing and believing are two different things. And even if we laugh at the salt eaters and the pill takers, many of us go through our lives thinking we can exert our own kind of control, that we can somehow shield ourselves and our loved ones from danger.

Then the world insists on reminding us that we control nothing. And we realize in those last seconds how powerless we truly are.

It could be a car crossing the yellow line. It could be a tsunami. Or it could be cancer.

And lest we begin to feel superior to the salt-panicked Chinese, what about Americans rushing to buy up every potassium iodide pill they can grab?

It started when U.S. Surgeon-General Regina Benjamin foolishly announced earlier this week that buying potassium iodide was "a precaution" against radiation.

She probably didn't mean to create a panic, but that's exactly what she did, and many from Hawaii to the West Coast—and even some here in the Midwest—rushed out to get the pills.

Other government health officials were forced to "clarify" her comments, saying the pills could even be harmful if taken by people with thyroid problems and some allergies.

It certainly doesn't help that in almost every news photo, the surgeon general is wearing that ridiculous dress uniform, the one with the shiny sash that makes her look as if she's in a production of "HMS Pinafore."

Even President Barack Obama on Thursday said people on U.S. soil do not need to take any precautions beyond staying informed.

"We do not expect harmful levels of radiation to reach the United States, whether it's the West Coast, Hawaii, Alaska or U.S. territories in the Pacific," the president said.

Then he repeated it.

So put your money away. You don't need to buy those potassium iodide pills. You don't need the extra salt. And you don't need that Geiger counter.

But it wouldn't hurt to pray for the thousands upon thousands of people who have died in Japan, for those who are living with the disaster and, especially, for those nuclear engineers in the damaged Japanese reactors, wearing those thin suits, doing what they can.

Are rich getting richer and the poor poorer?

By STEVEN R. CUNNINGHAM
AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC RESEARCH

One of the most enduring economic myths in our society is that the rich keep getting richer, while the poor keep getting poorer. It isn't true.

When most people think of the rich, they probably are thinking of people with great wealth. When they think of the poor, they probably are thinking of people with low incomes.

While there's obviously a correlation between wealth and income, they're not the same. And we shouldn't confuse them. A retiree who has $1 million invested in CDs is a millionaire; most people would consider this person wealthy. But at a 2.5 percent rate of return on the CDs—about twice what the typical bank is paying today—this person could have an annual income of just $25,000.

We don't have to rely on hypotheticals to illustrate this. The households of people ages 70-74 have the highest average wealth of any age group in America, but less than half the income of those in the 35-44 age bracket.

Government data, if misunderstood or improperly used, can lead to many false conclusions.

For example, from 2000 to 2009, inflation-adjusted household income fell 4.5 percent, but consumer spending increased 22.4 percent. This raises an obvious question: How did people dramatically increase spending on shrinking paychecks?

The answer is: They didn't.

They did increase spending. But paychecks weren't shrinking. Instead, the number of individuals per U.S. household was shrinking, which lowered the average.

Real disposable income, which is essentially total after-tax income, rose 25.2 percent from 2000 to 2009. At the same time, however, households got smaller, as more people divorced, or rejected or delayed marriage. So total spending went up, while average household income—due to the larger number of households—went down.

Like household income data, income distribution data often are misunderstood. For purposes of analysis, the Census Bureau divides households into fifths—or quintiles—yielding the bottom 20 percent of income earners, the next 20 percent, and so on, up to the highest 20 percent.

While this is a reasonable approach, it can be extremely misleading.

We often hear, for example, that the top 20 percent of U.S. households receive roughly 50 percent of total income, while the bottom 20 percent receives less than 4 percent. According to the Census Bureau's household data and quintile distribution, this is correct.

The problem is that we are not told that the top 20 percent of households includes four times as many workers as the bottom 20 percent, and nearly six times as many full-time, year-round workers. Knowing this makes a lot of difference in interpreting the original statement.

Income distribution data provide, at best, a snapshot, but this snapshot tells us little about movement within the economy.

Yet, economic mobility is a characteristic that helps differentiate the United States from many other countries. Between 2004 and 2007, for example, roughly a third of the households in the lowest income group moved up to a higher income group, according to the Census Bureau, while roughly a third of the households in the highest income group moved down.

Another study, conducted in 2007 by the U.S. Treasury, examined income tax returns from 1996 and 2005. Over the period, the median income of the study group rose by 24 percent. Almost 58 percent of those in lowest income group in 1996 moved to a higher group by 2005. About a fourth of them rose to middle- or upper-middle class incomes; more than 5 percent made it into the highest income group—in 10 years. The only group experiencing a decline in income was the richest 1 percent. This is hardly what most people have been led to believe.

While this may seem like an economic version of "musical chairs," it tells us that mobility among economic groups is high and chronic poverty is rare.

Is U.S. income growth stagnant? Are the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer? Neither is true.

The power of the American economy is that it provides opportunity. The income mobility numbers make this abundantly clear.

Steven R. Cunningham is director of research and education at the American Institute for Economic Research, 250 Division Street, Great Barrington, Mass. 01230; website: www.aier.org.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°

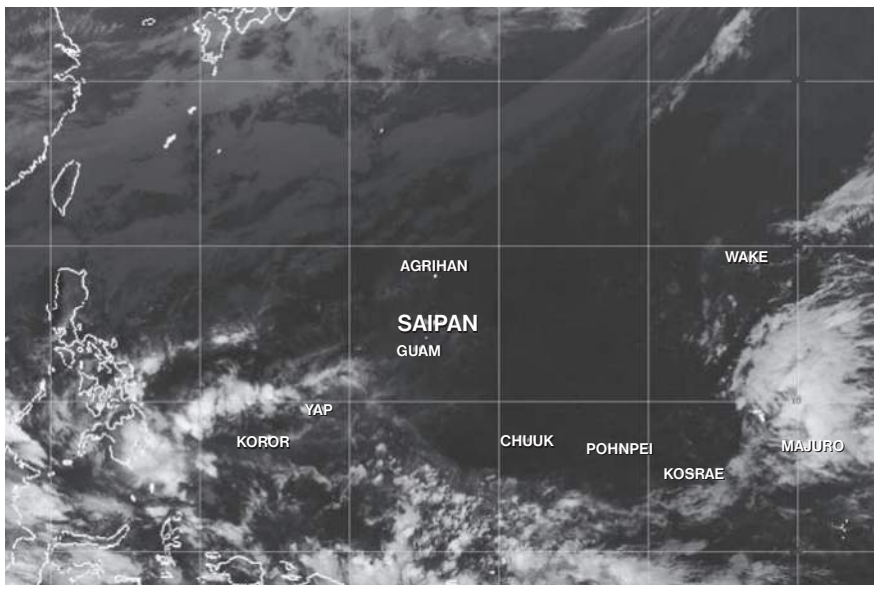
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲86	▼78
Palau	Showers	▲87	▼77
Yap	Partly Sunny	▲90	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲83	▼78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼76
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼77
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲73	▼66
Beijing	Sunny	▲62	▼36
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲64	▼58
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼71
London	Partly Cloudy	▲47	▼36
Los Angeles	Showers	▲59	▼49
Manila	Thundershowers	▲85	▼74
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲69	▼53
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼68
New York	Sunny	▲43	▼27
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲51	▼37
Paris	Showers	▲62	▼42
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲54	▼38
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲64	▼47
Salem	Showers	▲48	▼41
San Francisco	Rain	▲55	▼49
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲51	▼32
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲51	▼36
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲49	▼33

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near-equatorial trough extends southeastward from a circulation centered southwest of Koror near 4N130E to end at EQ148E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring southwest of Chuuk between 4N and the equator from 140E to 150E. An upper-level trough runs southwestward from 25N178E through an upper low centered northwest of Kwajalein at 10N165E to end near 5N150E. Divergent upper-level winds east of the trough and low are generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over the Marshall Islands between 14N and 8N from 165E to 174E and southwest of majuro within 70 miles of a line from 4N167E to 7N171E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:53 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
6:55 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
11:41 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
7:36 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:17 AM	6:29 PM
Sunday	6:17 AM	6:29 PM
Monday	6:16 AM	6:29 PM
Tuesday	6:15 AM	6:29 PM
Wednesday	6:15 AM	6:29 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:06 AM	11:36 AM
Sunday	12:59 AM	12:32 PM
Monday	1:47 AM	1:25 PM
Tuesday	2:31 AM	2:16 PM
Wednesday	3:11 AM	3:05 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	1, 3, ,4, 5, 6
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

CA988	3:15am	6:55am	1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
C09313/933	7:55am	9:25pm	3 via GUM
C09313/893	7:55am	11:00pm	3 via GUM-Palau
C09603/933	3:05pm	9:25pm	5 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm	5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL286	7:45pm	12:20am+1	2, 3, ,4 ,5, 7
DL288	8:00pm	12:30am+1	Daily

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:50am	2:20am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

CA987	6:40pm	1:55am+1	4, 7 Dec 12, 16, 19, 23 & 26 only

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ716/603	12:30am	2:20pm	4, 6 via ICN
DL172/286	8:05am	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM-Palau
C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM-Palau
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	4 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; CA: Air China
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am Chamorro, 9am English, 11am Filipino and 6pm English
Monday-Saturday: 6am Chamorro
Wednesday: 6pm Chamorro
Parish office hours:
Monday-Saturday
8am-12pm, 12-1pm, 1-5pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm (PH Novena 5:45pm)
Friday: 5:30pm praying of Divine Mercy Chaplet; 6pm devotional mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
Saturday: 6am and 6pm (anticipated)
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am 6pm Tagalog mass
Parish office hours: (Fr. Celso G. Magbanua) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8-11:30am/ 3-5:30pm, Wednesday and Friday 3-5pm.
Telephone no. 285-0273

Santa Soledad Mission Parish
Monday: 6pm
Tuesday: 6pm
Wednesday: 6pm
Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm (Youth mass/ anticipated Sunday mass)
Sunday: 7am and 9am (Children's mass)
Parish office hours: Wednesday and Friday: 8-10am,
Saturday: 4-6pm
Telephone no. 256-4568

Saint Jude Parish
Monday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 7am
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Parish office hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am, 3:30-5pm
Office is close every Thursday and Saturday
Telephone no. 288-0007

San Antonio Parish
Monday-Friday 6pm
Saturday: 6pm
Sunday: 7am, 9am (Blessing of children)
Parish office hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 8-11:30am, 2-4:45pm
Close on Sunday and Monday

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am Chamorro, 8am English
Monday and Tuesday:6am Chamorro
Wednesday:6pm English
Thursday: 6am Chamorro
Friday: 6am English
Saturday: 6am Chamorro, 6pm Tagalog
Sunday: anticipated mass

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am, 8am, 10am
Monday-Friday: 7pm
Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Monday- Saturday: 6am daily mass
Monday- Sunday: 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet
Wednesday: 6pm, mass, exposition of the blessed sacrament
Saturday: 6pm, anticipated Sunday mass
Sunday: 7:30-9am English, 6pm Tagalog mass
Office hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9am-12pm, 2-5pm
Thursday: day off
Friday- Saturday: 8am-12pm, 2-5pm
Telephone no. 234-6991

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 7:30am Chamorro, 9am English
Monday: 6pm English
Tuesday: 6pm English
Wednesday: 6pm English- novena mass to our Lady of San Roque oil
Thursday: 6pm English
Friday: 6pm English- Devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus (First Fridays)
Saturday: 6am English- Our Lady's Saturday mass for the intentions of the Men and Women in military service, 6pm English- anticipated mass
Parish office hours: daily except Thursday and Sundays: 4:30-6pm
Telephone no. 322-2404, Fr. Bong's cell: 285-912, Diocesan Finance office: 234-3000 ext.143

San Vicente Parish
Monday-Friday: 6pm,
Saturday: 6pm (First Saturday of every month)
Sunday: 6am anticipated mass, 6pm (Neo Catechumenal community mass), 8pm
Sunday: 6am, 9am, 6pm
Parish office hours: daily 9-11am
Telephone no. 235-8208 or 287-0131

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 8am
Monday: 6pm (1st Mondays cemetery masses at 5:30pm)
Tuesday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm-anticipated Sunday mass 8-10pm
Parish office hours: Monday- Friday: 8:30am-12pm

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian
(Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm
Telephone no. 234-6026/27

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services:
Sunday: Chinese and Filipino 9am, English 6pm
Bible Study: Wednesday and Saturday 8pm
Telephone no. 235-8540

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Morning Service, Sunday, 10:00 am
Evening Service, Sunday, 6:00 pm
Children Sunday School, 10:00am/ 6:00 pm
Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 7-9 pm
Youth Night of Worship, Friday, 6:30 pm
As Perdido Road
Chalan Piao, Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No. (670) 235-8590
Email: cornerstone@cfemcares.org

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Garapan, Plumeria Road,
Call 285-6081 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 9-11am
Sunday school/ Children's church 9am (nursery available during Sunday service)
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: 6am Tuesday GCA Kagman, Wednesday Navy Hill, Thursday San Antonio
Home Cell Bible Study: 7pm (Through out the week)
Telephone no. 322-5680

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (English)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (Tagalog)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church
Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa
(east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral)
Worship Service: 9:00am
Children's Sunday School: 9:00am
Choir Practice: 8:00am
Singspiration: 8:30am
Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm
Pastor: Millie Carroll 322-6158

Immanuel Methodist Church
(Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)
(Korean Congregation)
Sunday worship: 9am, 10:30, 1pm
Wednesday evening service: 8pm
Daily morning prayer: 5am

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
Sunday English Service: 7:30-9am,
Sunday Tagalog Service: 9-11am and 6-8pm,
Wednesday: 7:30-9pm

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9:20am
Sunday Adult: 11am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1
for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Marianas Bible Fellowship Center
Sunday School: 9-9:30am
Divine Worship: 9:30-11am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch)
Sunday worship 8:30am
Sunday evening 7:00pm
Prayer meeting, every Wednesday 7:30pm
San Jose village, after San Jose Hotel
Telephone: 789-7566

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 10-11am
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 6-7pm
Thursday Bible Study: 7pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church Koblerville
Sunday services:
Sunday school 9:00am
Morning worship 10:00am
Evening service 6:00pm
Wednesday evening bible study 7:00pm

Chinese services
Sunday morning 10:00am
Sunday evening 7:00pm

Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church.
Telephone No: 285-4661/2

Thy Word Ministries Saipan
Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi

Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian
Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Formerly God's Victorious Army)
Sunday 8:30am to 10:30am - Worship Service
Monday 7:00 pm - Women's Fellowship
Tuesday nights - Home cellgroup
Wednesday - 7:30pm to 9:00pm Mid Week Service
Friday 7:30pm to 9:00pm Prayer Meeting
Saturday nights - Praise and worship practice
Last Friday of the month - Overnight praying meeting
Pastor Brendon Perez - Tel# 2359246

Editor's Note: Information subject to change without prior notice. All information provided by the respective churches. If you want your church or religious activities included or to report changes and errors, call *Saipan Tribune* at 235-6397 or 235-2440 or email editor@saipantribune.com.

Business

Portugal woes steal show at EU summit

BRUSSELS (AP)—On the day that EU leaders presented what they hoped was the final version of their plan to solve the region's debt troubles, their summit in Brussels was overwhelmed by debate over Portugal's political crisis.

The meeting, which concluded early Friday, was supposed to mark the moment when governments finally get a grip on the debt crisis that has been crippling Europe for more than a year—signing off on closer economic cooperation and an overhaul of the size and powers of the region's bailout funds.

Instead, all the focus turned to whether Portugal will take a bailout and how Ireland will cope with its banks' losses—due to be revealed next week.

Although leaders stressed that they had all the tools to help Portugal should it require help, the government's defeat over planned austerity measures revealed some cracks in their crisis strategy, which revolves around states slashing deficits in return for expensive rescue loans.

Pedro Passos Coelho, the leader of Portugal's main opposition party and the most likely candidate to become its next prime minister, said it was "impossible" to tell whether the country could avoid an international bailout like the ones taken by Greece and Ireland.

Passos Coelho's center-right Social Democratic Party and other opposition parties Wednesday night refused to endorse Prime Minister Jose Socrates' spending cuts and tax increases, triggering his resignation.

The opposition leader met other conservative EU politicians at a pre-summit get-together earlier in the day, while Socrates represented his country at the actual summit. However, Passos Coelho said Socrates would not have a mandate to negotiate a bailout on behalf of his country.

Most analysts believe an international rescue is only a matter of time, as Lisbon faces huge debt repayments over the next few months that it will have a hard time meeting at current interest rates.

European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso said Socrates had assured his EU counterparts that Portugal would come up with the funding it needed over the next few months and that all major parties were committed to cut the country's budget deficit—despite disagreement over the exact measures.

Oil below $106 amid unrest, strong demand

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices hovered below $106 a barrel Friday in Asia as political upheaval in the Middle East and signs of strong global demand keep crude near two-year highs.

Benchmark crude for May delivery was down 8 cents to $105.52 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract fell 15 cents to settle at $105.60 on Thursday.

In London, Brent crude was up 12 cents at $115.84 a barrel on the ICE futures exchange.

Crude prices have jumped 25 percent since protests against Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi that began in mid-February escalated into a rebellion and shut down most of the OPEC nation's 1.6 million barrels per day of crude output. Fighter jets from a coalition of nations have pounded Gadhafi's forces this week but rebels have so far been unable to mount an offensive to overthrow the regime.

Investors are also closely watching escalating protests in Syria and a power struggle in Yemen, the latest unrest in a wave of uprisings this year that unseated leaders from power in Tunisia and Egypt and sparked violent demonstrations throughout North Africa and the Middle East.

Recent signs of strong crude demand in the U.S. and China have helped push prices higher. Chinese oil demand rose 10 percent in February from a year earlier and U.S. gasoline inventories plunged last week, suggesting consumers haven't cut back driving despite higher fuel costs.

"Geopolitical unrest in the Middle East amid a phenomenally strong demand backdrop keeps prices well supported," Barclays Capital said in a report.

The U.S. government said Thursday that fewer people applied for unemployment benefits last week, evidence that layoffs are slowing. The average number of unemployment filings over the last four weeks has dropped to its lowest level since July 2008.

A rebound in U.S. stock markets and a recent slump of the U.S. dollar—which makes crude cheaper for investors holding other currencies—have also contributed to the highest oil prices since September, 2008.

Nation

Napolitano: US border towns with Mexico are safe

EL PASO, Texas (AP)—U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano said Thursday that security on the southern U.S. border "is better now than it ever has been" and that violence from neighboring Mexico hasn't spilled over in a serious way.

Napolitano spoke at the Bridge of The Americas border crossing, after a meeting with the mayors of the border towns of El Paso, Nogales, Ariz., and Yuma, Ariz. Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade Francisco Sanchez and U.S. Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Alan Bersin also were present.

Napolitano said the Department of Homeland Security will deploy 250 more border agents and expects to have 300 more under their next budget if it's approved. She stated that Homeland Security is investing "millions of dollars in the side of commerce and trade" to improve infrastructure and technology along the border.

However, she added that there is a need to correct wrong impressions about the border region. Napolitano said border towns are safe for travel, trade and commerce. She noted that the total value of imports crossing the Southwest border was up 22 percent in fiscal year 2010, she said.

"There is a perception that the border is worse now than it ever has been. That is wrong. The border is better now than it ever has been," she said.

The perception that the violence in Mexico has spilled over to bordering U.S. cities is "wrong again," Napolitano said. Violent crime rates have remained flat or decreased in border communities in the Southwest, she said. However, she recognized that "there is much to do with (their) colleagues in Mexico in respect to the drug cartels" that are largely responsible for the unprecedented wave of violence in that country.

AP

Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano speaks, Thursday, March 24, 2011 in El Paso, Texas.

El Paso Mayor John Cook said his city has been ranked the safest city in the country of its size, despite being across the border from Ciudad Juarez, which is at the center of Mexico's drug cartel violence.

"The lie about border cities being dangerous has been told so many times that people are starting to believe it, but we as border communities have to speak out," Cook sad.

Napolitano cited a reduction of 36 percent in the number of illegal immigrant detentions, a key number to estimate the total of illegal border crossings, and the increase in trade as reasons to believe the situation along the border has improved.

"Numbers are in the right direction and dramatically so," she said.

Adviser: Bachmann likely to enter WH race

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP)—Tea party favorite and Republican Rep. Michele Bachmann is feeling pressure from the political calendar to rush a decision on a White House bid and may announce her intentions as early as May, one of her top advisers said Thursday.

Bachmann, a third-term congresswoman from Minnesota, could form a presidential exploratory committee before two televised Republican debates scheduled the first week of May, said Ed Brookover, a Bachmann adviser.

"I'm not sure the debate is what's going to make our final decision," he said. "Is it a factor? Yes."

Other Republicans familiar with Bachmann's thinking said all signs point to a White House run. They insisted on anonymity to discuss private conversations with Bachmann and her advisers.

For her part, Bachmann played coy.

"I'm in for 2012 in that I want to be a part of the conversation in making sure that President (Barack) Obama only serves one term, not two, because I want to make sure that we get someone who's going to be making the country work again. That's what I'm in for," Bachmann told ABC News.

"But I haven't made a decision yet to announce, obviously, if I'm a candidate or not, but I'm in for the conversation."

Bachmann spokesman Doug Sachtleben would only say the congresswoman would make a decision about a White House run by summer.

Bachmann was in Iowa on Wednesday courting evangelical home-school advocates, and was being escorted around the state by state Sen. Kent Sorenson, who told The Associated Press he would run her political operation in the state if she enters the race. Bachmann's allies have been visiting office space around Des Moines for a potential headquarters and have consulted with veterans of past caucuses about operatives and consultants who are still available.

Bachmann is a strong fundraiser; she collected a whopping $13 million for a re-election bid she won handily by 13 percentage points. She helped candidates and committees in Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina—the traditional early nominating states—raise cash.

Plato, Mo., sits at center of nation's population

PLATO, Mo. (AP)—In a nation of nearly 310 million people, America's new population center rests not in a Midwestern skyline of St. Louis or Chicago, but in a tiny Missouri village named after an ancient Greek philosopher.

The Census Bureau announced Thursday what the 109 residents of Plato had suspected for weeks: Shifting population patterns and geographical chance converged to make this town on the edge of Mark Twain National Forest the center of the U.S. population distribution based on 2010 census data.

The announcement also signifies larger trends—America's population is marching westward from the Midwest, pulled by migration to the Sun Belt. And in a surprising show of growth, Hispanics now account for more than half of the U.S. population increase over the last decade.

Such designations aren't new to Missouri. The 2000 population center was Edgar Springs, about 30 miles to the northeast. Thirty more miles to the northeast is Steelville, the 1990 population center.

That doesn't mean locals aren't downright thrilled with the recognition and a chance to be noticed.

"It is putting a spotlight on a corner of the world that doesn't get much attention," said Brad Gentry, 48, publisher of the weekly Houston Herald newspaper 30 miles up the road. "Most residents are proud of our region and like the idea that others will learn our story through this recognition."

The Census Bureau's first set of national-level findings from 2010 on race and migration show a decade in which rapid minority growth, aging whites and the housing boom and bust were the predominant themes.

The final count: 196.8 million whites, 37.7 million blacks, 50.5 million Hispanics and 14.5 million Asians.

Hispanics and Asians were the two fastest growing demographic groups, increasing about 42 percent from 2000. Hispanics, now comprise 1 in 6 Americans; among U.S. children, Hispanics are roughly 1 in 4.

More than 9 million Americans checked more than one race category on their 2010 census form, up 32 percent from 2000, a sign of burgeoning multiracial growth in an increasingly minority nation.

"This really is a transformational decade for the nation," said William H. Frey, a demographer at the Brookings Institution who has analyzed most of the 2010 data. "The 2010 census shows vividly how these new minorities are both leading growth in the nation's most dynamic regions and stemming decline in others."

For the first time, Asians had a larger numeric gain than African-Americans, who remained the second-largest minority group at roughly 37 million.

The number of non-Hispanic whites, whose median age is now 41, edged up slightly to 197 million. Declining birth rates meant their share of the total U.S. population dropped over the last decade from 69 percent to about 64 percent.

The Census Bureau calculates the mean U.S. population center every 10 years based on its national head count. The center represents the middle point of the nation's population distribution—the geographic point at which the country would balance if each of its 308.7 million residents weighed the same.

AP

A car drives through Plato, Mo., which has been designated the population center of the United States according to the 2010 census, Wednesday, March 23, 2011.

ACROSS THE NATION

Calif. judge to rule if kids can see paralyzed mom

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It's a custody case in which no one disputes these tragic facts: A healthy young woman went to the hospital to deliver her triplets, was badly brain damaged by a series of medical errors and can no longer walk, talk or even feed herself. But Abbie Dorn's attorney says that doesn't make her any less a mother to those 4-year-old triplets, telling Superior Court Judge Frederick C. Shaller at a hearing in Los Angeles Thursday that the 34-year-old woman has the same rights to regular visits with her children as any other parent.

Cherry blossom events begin with solemn DC tribute

WASHINGTON (AP)—The flowering trees that symbolize friendship between the United States and Japan are blooming for the 99th time in Washington in the wake of one of the world's worst natural disasters. Before the two-week National Cherry Blossom Festival opens Saturday, organizers held a fundraising walk and vigil Thursday evening among the trees for victims of Japan's March 11 earthquake and tsunami. An estimated 18,000 people have been killed in the disaster. Several hundred people gathered at the Washington Monument on a cold evening, some holding Japanese flags or signs of support.

Verdict: Judge returns Texas beauty queen's crown

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—A 17-year-old Texas beauty queen allegedly told to "get off the tacos" after gaining weight has had her crown returned by a judge after a jury ruled that she was wrongly stripped of her title. Domonique Ramirez won her lawsuit against the Miss San Antonio pageant, Luis Vera Jr., her attorney, told The Associated Press "She won 100 percent," Vera said. Judge Barbara Nellermoe then restored Ramirez's crown, clearing the way for her to compete for Miss Texas and Miss America, according Court Clerk Grace Montalvo. After deliberating 11.5 hours over two days in the weeklong trial, the Bexar County jury of five men and seven women found that pageant officials, not Ramirez, breached the contract.

Asia

Strong quake in Myanmar kills more than 40

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—A strong earthquake that toppled homes in northeastern Myanmar has killed more than 40 people, and there were fears Friday the toll would mount as conditions in more remote areas became known.

The Thursday night quake, measured at a magnitude 6.8 by the U.S. Geological Survey, was centered just north of the town Tachileik in the mountains along the Thai border, but was felt hundreds of miles (kilometers) away in the Thai capital Bangkok and Vietnamese capital Hanoi.

Myanmar state radio announced Friday that 41 people had been killed and 48 injured in the quake. It said 244 houses, 14 Buddhist monasteries and nine government buildings were damaged.

An official from the U.N.'s World Food Program said there were many casualties and serious damage in Mong Lin village, five miles (eight kilometers) from Tachileik. State radio said 29 were killed there and 16 injured.

The state-run New Light of Myanmar newspaper reported that 15 houses collapsed in the village of Tarlay, where state radio said 11 were killed and 29 injured. Another U.N. official said a small hospital there was partially damaged as well as a bridge, making it difficult to access the village.

The newspaper said another two people were killed in Tachileik, including a 4-year-old boy. It said six people were injured in the town, which is just across the border from Mae Sai in Thailand's Chiang Rai province.

In Mae Sai, one woman was killed when a wall fell on her, according to Thai police, but damage was otherwise minimal.

Most of rural Myanmar, one of Asia's poorest countries, is underdeveloped, with poor communications and other infrastructure, and minimal rescue and relief capacity.

The second U.N. official said medicine would be sent to the affected areas as soon as possible along with an assessment team in cooperation with the Myanmar Red Cross Society.

Both U.N. officials spoke on condition of anonymity because Myanmar's government frowns on giving unauthorized information to the media.

Somchai Hatayatanti, the governor of Chiang Rai province, said dozens of people suffered minor injuries on the Thai side of the border. Cracks were found in buildings in downtown Chiang Rai city, about 55 miles (90 kilometers) from the epicenter, including a provincial hospital and city hall. The tops of the spires fell off from at least two Buddhist temples.

As a precaution for aftershocks, a relief center was being set up Friday in Mae Sai.

"We are worried that the area might be hit with stronger quakes. There was another quake at 7 a.m. this morning," said Somsri Meethong of the Mae Sai District office, referring to an aftershock. "I had to run again like last night. What we have seen on TV about Japan added to our fear."

Death toll from Japan quake, tsunami tops 10K

TOKYO (AP)—The official death toll from Japan's devastating earthquake and tsunami passed the 10,000 mark Friday and was still climbing two weeks after the magnitude-9 quake struck off the northeastern coast and unleashed a cascade of disasters.

Hundreds of thousands of survivors are still camped out in temporary shelters. Some 660,000 households do not have water more than 209,000 do not have electricity. Damage could rise as high as $310 billion, the government said, making it the most costly natural disaster on record.

The total death toll from the disaster could rise much higher as the National Police Agency said more than 17,400 people are still missing. Those tallies may overlap, but police from one of the hardest-hit prefectures, Miyagi, estimate that the deaths will top 15,000 in that region alone.

Japan has been grappling with an avalanche of miseries that began with the March 11 quake, which ravaged the northeastern coast and damaged the critical cooling system at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant, located 140 miles (220 kilometers) northeast of Tokyo.

As operators of the Fukushima plant struggled to get the cooling system operating again, radiation has seeped into the air and water, stoking fears about the safety of Japan's food and water supply. Radiation has been found in raw milk, seawater and 11 kinds of vegetables, including broccoli, cauliflower and turnips, grown in areas around the plant.

Radioactive iodine is short-lived, with a half-life of eight days—the length of time it takes for half of it to break down harmlessly. However, experts say infants are particularly vulnerable to radioactive iodine, which can cause thyroid cancer.

The U.S. and Australia have halted imports of Japanese dairy and produce from the region, Hong Kong said it would require that Japan perform safety checks on meat, eggs and seafood, and Canada said it would upgrade controls on imports of Japanese food products. Singapore, too, has banned the sale of milk, produce, meat and seafood from areas near the plant.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Singapore finds radiation in some food from Japan

SINGAPORE (AP)—Singapore has detected radioactive contamination in vegetables grown near Japan's tsunami-damaged Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant. The Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority said in a statement late Thursday that it found small levels of contamination in samples of Japanese mustard, parsley and two other plants imported from the prefectures of Tochigi, Ibaraki, Chiba and Ehime. The AVA said the levels of radioactive contamination were small enough that the short-term consumption of those foods wouldn't pose a health hazard.

China sentences democracy activist to 10 years

BEIJING (AP)—A Chinese court sentenced a longtime activist to 10 years in prison for inciting subversion Friday over his online articles urging democratic change, a heavy penalty that rights groups say shows China's growing intolerance of criticizing one-party rule. Liu Xianbin, who has previously spent a decade in prison, was found guilty of inciting subversion of state power by the Suining Intermediate People's Court in Sichuan province after a trial that lasted a few hours Friday, his wife Chen Mingxian told The Associated Press.

6 North Koreans seek asylum in South Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Six North Koreans are seeking asylum in South Korea after arriving by boat at a South Korean port. The coast guard says nine people, including six North Koreans and three Chinese, arrived at Kunsan port Thursday evening. They left Dailin on China's east coast on Monday. The six North Koreans include three men, two women and one girl. The three Chinese of Korean ethnicity are two women and one man.

World

A Dutch F-16 aircraft prepares for landing at the Decimomannu airbase, in Sardinia, Italy, Thursday, March 24, 2011.

AP

Targets deep within Libya hit; fewer US jets used

BENGHAZI, Libya (AP)—French fighter jets hit aircraft and a crossroads military base deep inside Libya on Thursday as the U.S. reduced its combat role in the international operation that is working to thwart Moammar Gadhafi's forces by land, sea and air.

Explosions could be heard in Tripoli, the Libyan capital, before daybreak Friday, apparently from airstrikes.

Libya's air force has been effectively neutralized, and the government has taken part of its fight to the airwaves. State television aired pictures of bodies it said were victims of airstrikes, but a U.S. intelligence report bolstered rebel claims that Gadhafi's forces had simply taken bodies from a morgue.

International military support for the rebels is not open-ended: France set a timeframe on the international action at days or weeks—not months.

The possibility of a looming deadline raised pressure on rebel forces. So does a U.N. arms embargo that keeps both Gadhafi and his outgunned opposition from getting more weapons. The rebels were so strapped Thursday that they handed out sneakers—and not guns—at one of their checkpoints.

"We are facing cannons, T-72 and T-92 tanks, so what do we need? We need anti-tank weapons, things like that," said Col. Ahmed Omar Bani, a military spokesman told reporters in Benghazi, the de facto rebel capital. "We are preparing our army now. Before there was no army, from now there is an idea to prepare a new army with new armaments and new morals."

The Gadhafi regime appeared equally hard-pressed, asking international forces to spare its broadcast and communications infrastructure.

"Communications, whether by phones or other uses, are civilian and for the good of the Libyan nation to help us provide information, knowledge and coordinate everyday life. If these civilian targets are hit, it will make life harder for millions of civilians around Libya," Moussa Ibrahim, a government spokesman, told reporters in Tripoli.

Representatives for the regime and rebels were expected to attend an African Union meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on Friday, according to U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who described it as a part of an effort to reach a cease-fire and political solution.

The U.S. has been trying to give up the lead role in the operation against Gadhafi's forces, and NATO agreed late Thursday to assume one element of it—control of the no-fly zone.

The U.S.-led coalition will still supervise attacks on targets on the ground, though fewer U.S. planes were used in airstrikes Thursday.

"Nearly all, some 75 percent of the combat air patrol missions in support of the no-fly zone, are now being executed by our coalition partners," Navy Vice Adm. William Gortney, told reporters at the Pentagon. Other countries were handling less than 10 percent of such missions, he said.

The U.S. will continue to fly combat missions as needed, but its role will mainly be in support missions such as refueling allied planes and providing aerial surveillance of Libya, Gortney said.

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said the international action would last days or possibly weeks, but not months. But he told RTL radio that in addition to protecting civilians, the mission "is also about putting Gadhafi's opponents, who are fighting for democracy and freedom, in a situation of taking back the advantage."

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said the United Arab Emirates would deploy 12 planes for the coalition effort. Clinton thanked the U.A.E. for becoming the second Arab country after Qatar to send planes.

WORLD BRIEFS

Worried Syrian regime offers promise of change

DARAA, Syria (AP)—The Syrian government pledged Thursday to consider lifting some of the Mideast's most repressive laws in an attempt to stop a week-long uprising in a southern city from spreading and threatening its nearly 50-year rule. The promises were immediately rejected by many activists who called for demonstrations around the country on Friday in response to a crackdown that protesters say killed dozens of anti-government marchers in the city of Daraa. "We will not forget the martyrs of Daraa," a resident told The Associated Press by telephone. "If they think this will silence us they are wrong." The coming days will be a crucial test of the surge of popular discontent that has unseated autocrats in Tunisia and Egypt and threatens to push several others from power.

Yemen's youth leaders set out their demands

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—The youth groups that began a monthlong uprising said Thursday that they wanted a new constitution and the dissolution of parliament, local councils and Yemen's notorious security agencies in addition to the immediate ouster of the president. A top military official who defected to the opposition this week met privately with President Ali Abdullah Saleh Thursday to suggest ways he could leave power, an aide who attended the meeting said. Saleh rejected the offer, lashing out instead out at the protesters threatening his 32-year rule.

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, March 26, 2011

Medical mission in Garapan draws larger crowd

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ 4th Watch's second village-to-village mission at the Garapan basketball court on March 20 drew a horde of people seeking free medical services.

A total of 116 individuals availed of various services offered, including blood sugar and blood pressure check-up, vision screening, reflexology, haircut, facial massage, and spiritual counseling.

Church spokesperson Ronnie Doca said the medical mission is part of the church's global mission of providing public service to the community through Dalaw Kalinga (Care Visit) Foundation.

"We served more community members this time compared to our previous medical mission that served only about 70 individuals," Doca told *Saipan Tribune*.

The first village-to-village outreach was held at the Tanapag basketball court to accommodate residents from As Matuis, Tanapag, and San Roque.

"Even with the downpour that day, people were still coming in to avail of the services, although they did leave eventually. If not for the rain, I think more people would have stayed," he maintained.

According to Doca, the diversity of the community was evident during the outreach as people of different ethnic groups received free services. "That was the goal, to help every member of the community," he added.

Doca expressed his appreciation to all the sponsors and volunteers who made the outreach a success, including Micronesian Brokers Inc., Marianas Eye Institute, the Northern Marianas College Nursing Club led by Hervin Jacinto, hairstylists Rhea and Patrick, and other church volunteers.

Doca said Micronesian Brokers donated giveaways while Marianas Eye Institute gave a $150 gift certificate that was awarded to Bhoy Labrador.

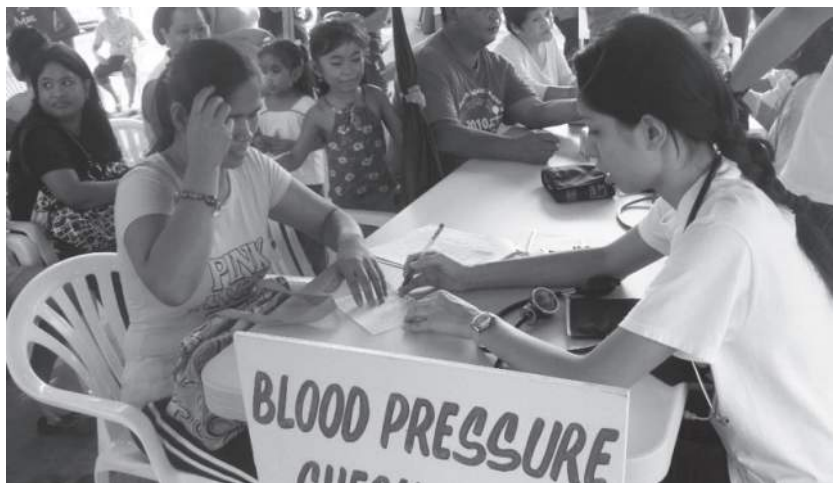
"We are asking our sponsors and volunteers to continue supporting this mission to provide the community with free services and remind them about God's love," he said.

The third village-to-village medical mission is slated for April 24 at the Gualo Rai basketball court.

"We're encouraging the public, especially those who haven't tried our outreach activity, to please come and take advantage of all our services and, at the same time, hear the Word of God," added Doca.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Despite the rainshower, community members line up for the second village-to-village medical mission of Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ 4th Watch last March 20.



A volunteer from the NMC Nursing Club attends to a patient.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A man gets a free haircut from one of the volunteers.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A woman receives free facial massage from a volunteer.

No Filipino hurt, killed in Myanmar quake—DFA

MANILA, Philippines—No Filipino was reported hurt or killed in the 6.8 magnitude earthquake that hit Myanmar's northeastern region, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said Friday, citing information from the Philippine embassy there.

The Embassy is in close contact with the Filipino community in Myanmar, according to Ambassador Hellen Barber.

There are about 340 Filipinos in Myanmar, the DFA said.

"As per Embassy's registry, there is no Filipino working in Shan state," the DFA said, referring to the area where the tremors did the most damage near the Thai border.

Dozens of people were killed or injured after the quake toppled buildings and collapsed homes in two towns close to the epicenter, according to news reports. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

PH spreads 'bayanihan spirit' to Japan

By DJ YAP
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The Philippines, often the recipient of Japanese aid during calamities, will return the favor as it flies in more than 10 metric tons of noodles and food packs, towels, dust masks and mats to devastated parts of northeastern Japan, the Department of Foreign Affairs said.

The donation of relief goods, the DFA said Friday, would be part of the government's commitment to join the global humanitarian drive for the Japanese people, who are still reeling from the twin disasters of quake and tsunami that struck their country two weeks ago.

"It is in the spirit of 'bayanihan' [neighborly cooperation] that the Filipino people reach out to help the people of Japan as they endeavour to overcome this great challenge," Foreign Secretary Albert Del Rosario said.

The relief goods have been earmarked by the Japanese government for distribution to families in Miyagi and Iwate prefectures (provinces), two of the worst hit by the March 11 catastrophe.

The donated items, which Japan had specifically requested, will be turned over by Philippine Ambassador to Japan Manuel Lopez to Japanese authorities, the DFA said in a statement.

On Thursday, the relief goods bound for Japan worth almost P1 million (P848,445) were turned over by the Department of Social Welfare and Development and the DFA to the Philippine Airlines, the country's flag carrier.

They will be flown to Japan free of charge by PAL under the government's Bayanihan Humanitarian Assistance initiative for Japan, the DFA said.

President Benigno Aquino III directed the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council to undertake that project, in partnership with the DFA, DSWD and other agencies.

Secretary Del Rosario added that the Philippines was prepared to send humanitarian assistance personnel from NDRRMC-member agencies to assist in the recovery efforts, should Japan so request.

He said a Philippine Air Force C-130 transport aircraft remained on standby for this purpose.

The official added that the Philippine embassy in Tokyo would focus its efforts in the Tohoku area, home to an estimated 4,600 Filipinos.

The embassy said it would continue looking for and assisting Filipinos in the northeastern part of the country, particularly areas near the Fukushima nuclear plants, which remain under threat from a developing nuclear emergency.

Del Rosario said the embassy had evacuated a total of 143 Filipinos from the Tohoku region who heeded its call for voluntary departure.

The evacuees have been brought to temporary shelters in Tokyo, he said. The embassy also continues to undertake consular missions and to bring food and other supplies to Filipinos who opted to stay in the affected areas.

PH banks on tech vs illegal recruiters, ill treatment of OFWs

By JEREMAIAH M. OPINIANO
OFW JOURNALISM CONSORTIUM

Manila-Labor executives are banking on technology to curb illegal recruitment and shabby treatment of departing Filipinos at the country's major airport terminals.

Since March 1, departing overseas Filipino workers are now being required to go first to any of three Labor Assistance Center counters at the country's three major airports to validate their overseas employment certificates.

This process replaces the step that allows OFWs to go directly to terminal fee counters. OFWs are exempt from paying a P750 airport terminal fee required of departing passengers. LAC chief Carlos Cañaberal said the latter allowed OFWs to sidestep the scrutiny of immigration officers and for some to board planes carrying spurious documents.

Just recently, six females disguised as nuns were spotted by airport officers of the Bureau of Immigration and were prevented from leaving.

According to Vice-President Jejomar Binay, who is also presidential adviser for OFW affairs, they were tipped off by the red high-heeled shoes some of the "nuns" were wearing.

Recruiter Lito Soriano said that allowing OFWs to go directly to terminal fee counters made illegal recruiters and traffickers bolder, if not easier for their operations.

The requirement for departing OFWs to bypass the LAC began in March 2008 after then POEA Administrator Rosalinda Baldoz issued a circular removing the validation function from the LACs.

Soriano attributes Baldoz's move to an incident in January 2, 2008 when the POEA LAC staff allegedly refused to give an exit clearance to Maria Theresa, the vacationing daughter of former Supreme Court Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban.

According to the former Chief Justice's newspaper column, her daughter "willingly" applied for an exit clearance to the POEA. But since POEA offices were closed due to non-working holidays when she returned Dec. 28, 2007, she wasn't able to secure an exit clearance.

The Chief Justice admitted in his column that he brought the matter to then Labor Secretary and current Supreme Court Associate Justice Arturo Brion. He also complained of the "shabby treatment" his daughter, who is working for a Fortune 500 company in New Jersey, United States, allegedly received from LAC staff.

Baldoz, receiving flak after the publication of the former Chief Justice's column, prompted her to order the removal of the validation function of POEA's LACs.

Baldoz was appointed undersecretary at the Department of Labor and Employment, the POEA's mother agency, and replaced by Jennifer Manalili, an aide of Chief Justice Panganiban.

After Manalili's term expired in end-2010, she was replaced by Carlos Cao last January. Cao issued a circular ordering the return of the validation function to the LAC.

POEA Planning Branch chief Mia Alvarez said the removal of this function from the LAC saw an increase in illegal recruitment cases –including those victims spotted at airports and those OFWs facing labor-related cases in host countries.

Alvarez said that in the January-to-September 2010, these cases went up by 2.36 percent to 1,648 compared to the 1,610 recorded for the same nine-month period in 2009.

She added that Immigration and LAC personnel complained also of problems dealing with OFWs carrying fabricated documents such as the OEC, the pre-departure orientation seminar certificate, and visa, among others.

Cañaberal blamed Baldoz's removal of the LAC's validation function to the rise of "offloading," a situation wherein immigration officers prevent departing OFWs from leaving until documents are authenticated by the POEA.

"There's too much hanky-panky going on," Cañaberal said.

With the return of the validation function to LAC, Canaberal says that an OFW will be given a minute to validate his or her documents using computers linked to the POEA headquarters' computers containing records. The OFW is then given an exit clearance. The POEA also collects the OEC document, yet OFWs still do not pay any terminal fee.

The real-time capture of departing OFWs will hopefully lead to more accurate statistics of the ones who were eventually deployed to overseas jobs, Cañaberal said.

At the moment, there are three LACs to station each of the three terminals of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA).

Terminal 1's LAC handles the most number of departing OFWs with 3,500 to 5,000 daily since foreign airports are in the said terminal. Terminal 2's LAC handles 800 to 950 OFWs, while terminal 3's LAC handles 400-500 OFWs, Cañaberal said.

He, however, notes that long queues would not be solved by the return of the validation function to the LAC.

The ten-person staff complement is not enough to validate the documents of departing OFWs, Cañaberal said. So expect problems associated with managing long lines of OFWs at the LACs, especially in Terminal 1, he added.

Still Cañaberal promised that the POEA will "tighten up" its work at airports to ensure that OFWs departing carry only authenticated documents. ***OFW Journalism Consortium***

AP

Geronlimo Ordinario, right, father of Sally Odinario-Villanueva reacts while mother Basilisa sits beside him as they appeal to the government of China to save their daughter from execution during a press conference Friday, March 25, 2011 in suburban Quezon City north of Manila, Philippines.

Palace 'realistic' on 3 Filipino drug mules' chances

By NORMAN BORDADORA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Malacañang is "realistic" about the situation of three Filipinos facing execution in China on March 30 but supports a move to send a final letter of appeal to Chinese authorities.

"[Certainly] we would prefer a more positive outcome but we're realistic about the situation. We are aware that the agreement last time was only for the postponement of the execution," presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda told reporters during Thursday's news briefing.

When asked if Vice President Jejomar Binay's letter of appeal still had a point, Lacierda said, "The Vice President believes that while it has not yet been carried out there is still hope. He wants to exhaust all possible means."

On Wednesday, China announced the executions of the three Filipinos—a man and two women—on March 30 after it was postponed in February, following the appeal made by Binay personally to Chinese officials.

Meanwhile, the family of one of the Filipino drug mules who will be executed next week in China will be leaving for that country soon, according to a report on Radyo Inquirer, quoting a brother.

Jason Ordinario, brother of Sally Ordinario Villanueva, was quoted as saying that aside from him, a sister and their parents were scheduled to take the trip to Xiamen either on Monday or Tuesday where Villanueva, 32, and Ramon Credo, 42, would be executed by lethal injection on March 30, a Wednesday.

Elizabeth Batain, 38, will be executed in Shenzen.

Ordinario said they decided to leave Villanueva's husband and children behind.

Ordinario said they would stay in China until after the execution so that they could bring Villanueva's body home.

Vice President Jejomar Binay and Rep. Walden Bello are still trying to forge a plea bargaining agreement, the report said, quoting Ordinario.

Villanueva, Credo and Batain were convicted of heroin smuggling in 2008 and were due to have been put to death last February 20 and 21 but was put on hold after Binay went to Beijing on February 18 to seek mercy.

Philippine authorities had gone to great lengths in a bid to save the Filipinos and made repeated appeals for their sentences to be commuted to life in jail.

But the Chinese embassy in Manila last week dashed hopes for clemency, saying, "The verdict is a final verdict."

The DFA said Manila would respect the final ruling of China's high tribunal.

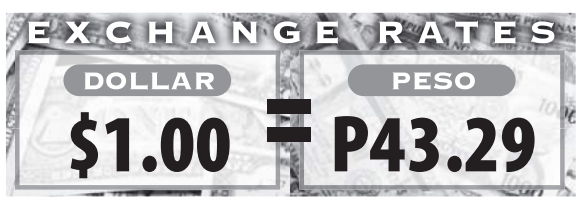
"The government respects the Chinese law and the finality of the verdict of the Chinese People's Court," Foreign Affairs spokesman Ed Malaya told reporters.

President Benigno Aquino III last week acknowledged that from the start, the government was told that the stay of execution of the three Filipinos was temporary, and "we have to conform to their laws."

Remittances seen staying strong

MANILA, Philippines—HSBC expects remittances to the Philippines to remain strong despite the chaos in certain Middle Eastern countries.

The bank said the tension in those countries would likely have minimal adverse impact on the remittances from Filipinos overseas.



In a research note on the Philippines, the investment bank noted that the Middle East accounts for "only" 15 percent of total remittances sent to the country. Any drop in the amount of money sent by Filipinos based in the Middle East may be offset by an increase in the amount sent by those based in other regions, it said.

HSBC cited the modestly improving economy of the United States and the robust growth posted by Asian economies.

"In light of the recent chaos in the Middle East, concerns about the Philippine remittances outlook are understandable.... However, economic developments in the West and in Asia still carry larger implications. Hence, we do not expect a slowdown in remittances from the Middle East to weigh too heavily on overall growth," HSBC said in the paper written by its Asean economist, Sherman Chan.

Last year, remittances to the Philippines reached an all-time high of $18.8 billion, registering an 8.2-percent annual growth rate.

The spate of political protests in certain Middle Eastern countries have elicited concerns about a possible decline in remittances this year.

HSBC said it was even expecting remittances, in dollar terms, to grow further this year. It said overseas Filipino workers had a tendency to send more money to their families in times of peso appreciation to make sure the peso amount of their remittances remain the same. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

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PH govt drops plan to send rescue team to Japan

By MARLON RAMOS
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Instead of a search-and-rescue team, the Philippines is sending P1.3 million worth of emergency relief supplies to Japan for victims of the recent earthquake and tsunami, an official said Thursday.

Benito Ramos, executive director of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, said the food and non-food items prepared by the Department of Social Welfare and Development would be flown to Japan on Friday by Philippine Airlines.

He said a six-member advance party the Armed Forces of the Philippines sent to Japan a few days ago would oversee the distribution of the relief items.

"They will work together with our embassy officials in Japan. After they finish their task, they will immediately fly back home," he said.

No response from Tokyo

The government has dropped its plan to dispatch a 46-member rescue contingent to Japan after failing to receive a reply from Tokyo on its offer.

Ramos gave no explanation and referred media questions to the Department of Foreign Affairs.

"The DFA would be the best agency to explain what caused the cancellation. I don't want to second-guess. I'm just following instructions from the DFA," Ramos said in a news briefing at Camp Aguinaldo.

"I can only speculate that there are already a number of rescue volunteers there," he said. "But we perfectly understand the sensitivities of the Japanese people."

Last week, Japan said countries offering help should be self-sufficient and well-equipped to cope with possible contamination from crippled nuclear reactors.

NEW ATTRACTION AP

Visitors watch a man in a cage feeds sharks in a new attraction at Manila's Ocean Park, Philippines on Wednesday, March 23, 2011. The unique equipment allows guests to dive and feed the sharks inside a cage to observe the animal closely.

Six Chinese poachers nabbed in Palawan

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY, Philippines—Authorities arrested six Chinese nationals caught poaching in Philippine waters, in a reef near the coastline of Balabac, Palawan's southernmost municipality, on Thursday afternoon, police said Friday.

Using a speedboat fitted with three 60 horsepower engines, the Chinese fell into a trap set up by the team of law enforcers who were able to approach and outflank the Chinese fishers by posing as local fishermen using two slow outrigger boats, Balabac Police Chief Superintendent Rodel Garcia Lota said.

Lota said the Chinese, who were fishing in a reef area just about 300 meters from the shoreline of Sitio Timbayan, Barangay Ramos, Balabac, tried to break through the blockade but were outmaneuvered by the team of enforcers from the Philippine Navy/Marines, PNP Maritime and DENR/BFAR led by Lota.

"They tried to escape but gave up when they realized we had outmaneuvered them," Lota told the *Philippine Daily Inquirer.*

Recovered from the unmarked Chinese speed boat, believed to be have been operating in tandem with a mother ship, were seven live sea turtles, two dead marine turtles, nets and chemicals suspected to be used for stuffing dead marine animals.

Lota said they were unable to get the names of the Chinese and determine their exact origin because none of them spoke English.

The authorities are expected to bring the Chinese nationals to Puerto Princesa City for filing of illegal entry and illegal fishing charges. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

Taiwanese envoy to the Philippines returns

By ARIEL FERNANDEZ, DJ YAP
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Taiwan's de facto ambassador to the Philippines is back in Manila more than a month after he was recalled by his government following a diplomatic spat arising from the deportation by the Philippines of 14 Taiwanese to China, according to a report on Radyo Inquirer.

Donald Lee, the representative of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, flew in from Taiwan in what could be another sign of normalcy returning to relations between the two nations.

Lee arrived aboard China Airlines flight CI 701 and was welcomed by Filipino-Chinese philanthropist James Dy and TECO charge d'affaires Michael Hsu at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

He said he was happy to be back in the country but declined to give any other statement.

Lee had been recalled by his government after the deportation fiasco.

In December, Philippine immigration authorities arrested 14 Taiwanese and 10 Chinese nationals over an alleged scam to swindle mainlanders out of millions of dollars.

Those arrested were deported to China on February 2, a move that angered and prompted Taipei to threaten retaliatory action against some 80,000 Filipinos working in Taiwan and others who planned to work there unless the Philippines apologized.

The Philippine government refused to do so, although it took measures to appease Taiwan such as sending an emissary, President Benigno Aquino III's "chief troubleshooter" and former Senator Mar Roxas.

Its decision to replace Bureau of Immigration officer-in-charge Ronaldo Ledesma also pleased Taipei, which later relaxed the visa restrictions it imposed on Filipino applicants following the deportation row.

Like most countries, the Philippines formally recognizes Beijing rather than Taipei, but maintains trade and tourism ties with Taiwan. China considers Taiwan a renegade province and seeks to isolate the island internationally.

PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

80 Filipino women rescued from human traffickers

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine police have rescued 80 Filipino women from a suspected human trafficking syndicate that was planning to send them to be maids in Malaysia and the Middle East. Police Superintendent Celso Bael said they stopped the women, who pretended to be tourists, from boarding a chartered flight from the southern city of Zamboanga to Malaysia on Thursday. He says that, from Malaysia, some would have been be sent to Libya, Lebanon and Egypt. He says they were recruited from the Philippine capital and nine provinces around the country. The women have been brought to the Social Welfare Department for counseling. Few employment opportunities at home have forced millions of Filipinos to find work abroad, even in dangerous areas.

No Philippine ban on Japan food, except chocolate

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines has halted imports of Japanese chocolate made with milk from areas near a radiation-leaking nuclear plant. But an official says the country is not banning Japanese food products in general. Health Secretary Enrique Ona told reporters Friday that samples of food products from Japan that were checked for radiation were found to pose no public health risk. He says testing will continue. Still, the Bureau of Animal Industry has suspended imports of chocolate with milk from four Japanese prefectures that have a high risk of radioactive contamination from the nuclear plant damaged by this month's tsunami. Although Japan is the Philippines' second-largest trading partner, the bulk of Japanese imports are electronic goods and transport equipment.

Land mine blast kills 2 soldiers in Philippines

DAVAO, Philippines (AP)—A land mine explosion has killed two soldiers in the southern Philippines. It is the latest attack blamed on communist rebels despite the recent resumption of peace talks. Regional army spokesman Lt. Col. Lyndon Paniza says Wednesday's blast also wounded two soldiers in Santa Cruz town in Davao del Sur province. He said Thursday the soldiers were conducting an outreach program. The government and negotiators from the New People's Army last month resumed long-stalled peace talks brokered by Norway. The talks aim to resolve one of Asia's longest-running Marxist rebellions by 2012. But there's no truce yet, so the rebels have kept up attacks and troops have continued with offensives.

Gunman kills radio broadcaster in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Police say a radio broadcaster was shot and killed in the Philippine capital and investigators are trying to determine whether the attack was work-related. Police Senior Supt. Cornelio Barrios said a man with a pistol shot Maria Len Flores Somera in the nape Thursday near her home in Malabon city. He said the attacker fled in a jeep. The 44-year-old broadcaster worked for Manila radio station DZME. It reported some relatives suspect the attack may be linked to a land feud. The Philippines is one of the world's most dangerous places for reporters. In the single worst killing of media workers in the world, 32 journalists and their staff were gunned down with 25 other people in an elections-related attack in 2009.

Many Filipinos gamble lives in Libya for jobs

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Philippine Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario has made a second trip to strife-torn Libya to convince hundreds of Filipino workers there to leave. Most have chosen to stay. The Department of Foreign Affairs says del Rosario escorted 31 Filipinos from the Libyan capital of Tripoli to the border in neighboring Tunisia on Wednesday. The department says 1,600 of 2,000 Filipino nurses have decided to stay in Libya along with about 100 Filipino professors. It says many of the workers prefer to stay in Libya, where they have been promised higher wages amid the violence there, than face unemployment at home. Del Rosario led a risky evacuation of 400 Filipinos from Tripoli last month.

Raps eyed for abusive Filipino officers in video

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — The Philippines' human rights chief says she will make sure that army officers who were caught on a YouTube video beating and slapping recruits during training will be criminally charged. Loretta Ann Rosales of the Philippines' Commission on Human Rights said Tuesday that the officers should not just face administrative charges for acts she called "grossly inhuman." Military chief Lt. Gen. Eduardo Oban says he has asked the army to check if and how the officers involved in the 2008 incident were punished. Communist rebels say they obtained the video from disgruntled troops and posted it on the video-sharing website to underscore the abuses army officers commit even on their men. Rosales says she is looking into a similar complaint of abuse on police recruits.

Philippine Airlines ships water to Japan

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—National carrier Philippine Airlines and its sister company Asia Brewery Inc. have donated bottled water to earthquake and tsunami victims in Japan. Airline spokesman Joey de Guzman said 70,000 bottles of distilled water were flown on a regular PAL flight Tuesday to Tokyo. The companies have promised to send 700,000 bottles in all. De Guzman says the Tokyo government will be in charge of distributing the bottled water to the hardest hit areas. He says they could have shipped the water sooner, but the Tokyo government warehouses had limited space because they were filled with donations from around the world.

Maharlika – PinoyStyle

Yeng's big night: 5 wins at Myx Music Awards

By ALLAN POLICARPIO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Members of the fan club "Yengsters" came in full force, jumping and screaming as their idol Yeng Constantino bagged five trophies at the 2011 Myx Music Awards held at the Music Museum recently.

The 22-year-old singer-songwriter won as favorite female artist, as well as in the music video, song, collaboration and Myx celebrity VJ categories.

She looked genuinely shocked as she climbed onstage, mouth agape, and repeatedly slapped her forehead in disbelief after her 2010 chart-topper "Jeepney Love Story" was named favorite song.

She told the Inquirer that, as cliché as it sounds, she didn't expect to win anything. "Basta sabi ko before this, dapat bago ang gupit ko saka maganda 'yung susuotin ko para kahit matalo, hindi mukhang kawawa (I just told myself, before this, I should have a hair cut and I'd wear something beautiful so if I lose, I won't look pathetic)," she said, laughing.

"Jeepney Love Story," she pointed out, is so special to her that she lobbied hard for it to be released as a single. "Dapat wala nang third single from ["Lapit"], my third album, pero pinaglaban ko talaga 'yung song. Nakita nila [record label] 'yung fire sa mata ko, kaya sinuportahan nila ako," she said.

Other notable winners were Gloc-9 (favorite male artist), Slapshock (favorite Myx live performance) Callalily frontman Kean Cipriano (favorite media soundtrack and collaboration), and Sandwich (favorite artist and rock video).

Yeng Constantino

Winners were determined by 40 percent text votes, 40 percent artist/ballot votes, and 20 percent online votes.

The night kicked off with a set of covers of this year's favorite song nominees. Teen heartthrobs Elmo Magalona and Sam Concepcion sang an R&B-inspired version of Tanya Markova's "Disneyland." An attempt was made to put a classical flavor to "Jeepney Love Story" by putting the Opera Belles alongside Cipriano and Markki Stroem, but the blaring instruments drowned the trio's voices.

Meanwhile, Sitti and Princess' version of Parokya ni Edgar's "Pakiusap Lang," and Nikki Gil's take on 6cyclemind's "Kung Wala Na Nga" were both good, but quite forgettable.

The real highlight came when The CompanY surprised the crowd by tackling Slapshock's "Cariño Brutal." The vocal group's playful harmonies gave the death rock-metal song a thoroughly refreshing sound.

For the longest time, the local music scene has been dominated by power vocalists and rock bands. But the Myx Music Awards showed that artists could also excel in other genres. Singing his own tune "Hey, Daydreamer," the one-man electro-pop act Somedaydream showed he could very well be our own Owl City.

Hip hop/R&B artist Quest, who won favorite urban video for "Back to Love," revised the lyrics to his song to remember the victims of the recent earthquake and tsunami in Japan.

Influenced by Lady Gaga and Gwen Stefani among others, Shadow A brought girl power to the fore with her dance tune "Filipina."

To commemorate FrancisM's second death anniversary, Kamikazee performed a burning-hot rendition of the late Master Rapper's "Meron Akong Ano!"—with Parokya ni Edgar's Chito Miranda, Greyhoundz's Reg Rubio, and WilaBaliW's Ian Tayao jamming on vocals.

The performance was easily the best of the night—Miranda baring his rapping skills, and Rubio and Tayao unleashing their signature death growls. Kamikazee's ever cheeky frontman Jay Contreras roused the crowd with his air-humping antics. Later on, Vinci Montañer, and Gloc-9 also hopped on the stage to join the ruckus.

Also that night, Regine Velasquez was handed the Myx Magna Award for her 25 years of invaluable contributions to the local music industry.

Ogie, Reg organizing celebrity 'ukay-ukay'

Ogie Alcasid

By ALLAN POLICARPIO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Ogie Alcasid says celebrities' homes can be very cluttered. He is urging them to clear their closets and hand over extra stuff to him and his wife Regine, for "Celebrity Ukay-Ukay," a fundraiser.

"Ukay" will sell and auction to the public clothes, bags, shoes and accessories previously owned by stars. Proceeds will go to GMA Kapuso Foundation's Kapuso School Development project, to build more classrooms for public schools in remote communities.

"Celebs replenish their wardrobes yearly. I'm sure they'll take advantage of this drive. Not only will their homes be decongested; they will also get to help the Kapuso Foundation," Ogie said recently during a press conference at the GMA Network Center.

A staunch advocate for education, Ogie stressed the importance of giving children a decent place for learning. "I've been very fortunate to have finished college. If we can give that opportunity to others, why not?"

Kapamilya welcome

Initially, the aim is to build or rehabilitate 50 classrooms, including water and sanitation facilities for the schools. For this, the target amount is P35 million.

It is a tremendous task but, Ogie said, "Nothing is impossible. Efren Peñaflorida, an ordinary citizen (before he was named CNN Hero of the Year for 2009) was able to help. Certainly, celebrities should find it easier."

Last week, Ogie and Reg, with foundation vice president and COO Mel Tiangco, hosted a dinner for show biz friends. Among those who turned up were Kyla, John "Sweet" Lapus, Jessa Zaragoza, Bayani Agbayani, Dingdong Dantes and Marian Rivera.

Jessa pledged two favorite designer gowns; Bayani, his custom-made football jersey. Sweet said he would scour his closet for his flashiest clothes and accessories.

Ogie also sought the assistance of talent managers and producers, including Shirley Kuan, Girlie Rodis, Arnold Vegafria and Regal Films matriarch Lily Monteverde. Mother Lily handed over a check for P1 million.

Another dinner is set for March 26. Ogie hopes celebrities from rival networks will join in.

Gary V, Kris

Two Kapamilya stars who have expressed their interest in the project are Gary Valenciano and Kris Aquino.

Aside from shoes, paintings and old furniture, Ogie said Regine also plans to sell and auction designer gowns she has worn in concerts. He has tapped other singers, too, like Pops Fernandez, to donate some of theirs.

Ogie himself is selling long-sleeved tops designed by Randy Ortiz. He has also picked several pairs of shoes from his racks, with brands ranging from Vans to Prada. His Korg Karma keyboard, which brought to life some of his most famous compositions, such as "Ikaw Sana" and "Kailangan Kita," will be auctioned off as well.

Ogie and Regine's "Celebrity Ukay-Ukay" will be launched during the Heat Wave Summer Bazaar at the World Trade Center on April 15-17.

Adam Levine: Maroon 5 not disbanding any time soon

By POCHOLO CONCEPCION
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Futuretainment, a company led by actor-restaurateur and now concert promoter Marvin Agustin, has taken over the people who are mounting the Maroon 5 concert on May 23 at the SMX Convention Center in Pasay.

The move reflects the aggressiveness of Agustin and his partners in joining the concert promotion business, whose biggest player at present is Renen de Guia of Ovation Productions.

What's admirable about De Guia is that he bankrolls the concerts directly without waiting for corporate sponsorship.

If Agustin can do that as well, with an eye on major and hot new acts, the local audience may look forward to more exciting foreign concerts soon.

Already Agustin has bagged Bruno Mars who is performing on April 7 and 8 at the Cebu Waterfront Hotel and Araneta Coliseum, respectively.

It's Maroon 5's second time in the country, following an impressive performance in March 2008 at the Big Dome, which reportedly attracted some 10,000 people.

The Inquirer talked with the band's lead singer/rhythm guitarist Adam Levine via e-mail recently.

How did you end up in a band?

I fell in love with music at a really young age, and started playing guitar around 10 years old. But, I think it was the combination of the excitement I'd get from hearing the awesome music on the radio and the extravagance of the concerts my dad would take me to that made me really want to be a part of it.

Did you ever imagine this would become a full-time job?

You grow up dreaming that one day you'll be that guy on the stage instead of the fan in the audience, but it's still surreal to believe that this is now my full-time job.

Do you think failure and rejection in the early years helped Maroon 5 become a better band?

I think if a person or group of people has the right focus, drive and determination to succeed, that rejection will only make them stronger and fight harder to achieve their goals. So yes, our tough beginnings have definitely helped us get to where we are now.

You've said that turning on to black music (gospel, R&B, hip-hop) in New York improved your songwriting.

Because I think it's more powerful and emotional. Its roots are based on a person's soul and the words come from deep down. When someone reflects on their pain and struggles, the words and music tend to be stronger.

There are a lot of collaborations between different artists going on. Who would you like to work with, soon?

I think a collaboration with The Roots would be a great experience and produce a great product.

What's good about fame and fortune?

The opportunity to help others who are less fortunate and in need of simple essentials to live.

What's bad about it?

It makes it tough to enjoy a personal, simple life sometimes.

You've also been quoted as saying that "the band is reaching its peak and may make one more album before disbanding ... Eventually I want to focus on being a completely different person because I don't know if I want to do this into my 40s and 50s and beyond, like the Rolling Stones." Is it also because life as a public figure has become tiring, if not complicated?

I love what I do and think that, yes, although it might be "tiring" and "complicated" at times, this life is a gift and I would be even more blessed than I have been if I could last as long as the Stones have. The band is strong right now and we are anxious to get back into the studio and record another album. We don't have any plans on disbanding any time soon.

Maharlika – Opinyon

EDITORIAL

Senate can-do

Now that the articles of impeachment against Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez have been submitted to the secretary of the Senate, all eyes are on the senators who will sit in judgment. The Senate will convene as an impeachment court for only the second time in our history on May 9.

The case against Gutierrez can be summed up thus: The principal official charged by the Constitution with the task of prosecuting corruption cases with the Sandiganbayan is accused of blocking, or unconscionably delaying, or even bargaining away, prosecution.

The impeachment process only seeks to remove Gutierrez from office. But while there are six articles of impeachment, the prosecutors from the House of Representatives need to prove the case against Gutierrez in only one, for the senator-judges to convict her.

In other words, Gutierrez needs to be found guilty of only one of the six articles—and she becomes the first impeachable official to be formally removed from office.

This basic arithmetic of conviction suggests a way of proceeding for the Senate that meets the highest standards of justice and fairness and at the same time recognizes the many other demands on the Senate's time. The Senate has moved expeditiously on the matter, laying out the trial schedule as early as last week, and approving its rules on impeachment the other night. The Senate has prepared a thrice-a-week schedule for the trial, three afternoons every week beginning May 9, reserving the mornings for legislative work. The rules are both disciplined (learning its lessons from the impeachment trial of Joseph Estrada, the chamber has enjoined its members not to discuss the merits of the case during the trial) and generous (media coverage is allowed, use of online social media is not banned).

Our proposal follows those same principles: Instead of having the House prosecutors present their case in all six articles, before the Senate votes to acquit or to convict, perhaps the Senate can amend its impeachment rules when it resumes session on May 9 and adopt a new process: Let the House lawyers prosecute the six charges one at a time, and then the Senate will vote to acquit or to convict after each one.

That is to say, after the House prosecutors complete presenting the evidence and arguing the case for the first article of impeachment, then the senator-judges will meet to rule on it. If the votes add up to conviction, then there is no longer any need to continue with the impeachment trial; Gutierrez is effectively removed from office.

If the first article fails to secure an acquittal, then the House prosecutors move on to the second, after which the Senate meets and votes again, and so on down the line.

The advantage here is that an early conviction will bring the trial to an early end; while acquittals in the first articles will only mean that the trial will proceed according to the original plan. Gutierrez's rights are safeguarded, while the urgency of legislative work is recognized and accommodated.

Since the conduct of the impeachment trial is entirely dependent on the Senate's sense of what it can and cannot do, the senator-judges may wish to consider this proposal.

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Nameless

There's The Rub

By CONRADO DE QUIROS

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

I can't understand the criticisms about Japanese secretiveness uttered on CNN by some American officials and guest commentators as Japanese authorities rushed to forestall a nuclear holocaust last week. The fact that helicopters were spraying tons of water into the smoking plants, one said, was a sure sign things were much worse than the Japanese officials were making it out to be. Clearly, the commentator said, that wasn't the first thing you'd do in the face of that crisis, that was the last. It was a sign of desperation.

The Japanese government, the others also said, would do better to be more forthcoming about the extent of the crisis. There was also the foreign community to think about.

My first reaction was to marvel at the cheekiness of it. Have these people forgotten that not too long ago, they went through the experience of being lied to by their government about weapons of mass destruction in Iraq? Have they forgotten that they themselves as government officials had directly taken a hand in that lie, trotting out fake reports and hiding real ones in defense of it, and as media practitioners had unwittingly—or perfectly wittingly in the case of Fox Network—spread that lie, conscripting an entire nation into supporting a gratuitous invasion of another country? The only comparable case of it was when William Randolph Hearst deliberately and cynically manufactured a threat from Spain at the close of the 19th century to justify a war with it and grab its colonies, including the Philippines.

And you'd like to preach to another country, one that has been pulling through heroically in the face of one of the most mind-boggling catastrophes ever to visit humankind, about the merits of being honest to oneself and to others? At the very least, the Japanese government's lack of forthrightness, if that is so at all, can devastate only its people. The US government's lack of forthrightness, to put it felicitously, has devastated a people overseas. Well, that is a good reason to forget about one's own culpability, when the nasty effects of lying are felt only by others. To this day, the US has yet to apologize to the kin of the Iraqi dead.

I grant honesty is always the best policy. People have a right to know to make an informed choice. But you also have to weigh that against the dangers of speculation and panicking the public, a thing that's bound to cause more deaths than the catastrophe itself. Outside looking in, you've got to be impressed by the way the Japanese have handled their emergency so far, the lack of hysteria despite the number of deaths and the repeated explosions in the nuclear plants, the orderly way people are going about their business or evacuating Tokyo.

What has particularly impressed me is the story about the operators who have stayed behind to man the troubled plants. They were originally called the "Nameless 50" because that was how many of them there were and because they were unnamed. That number has apparently climbed to 150 and even 200 in some reports as others have volunteered as well. Their job specifically calls for pumping seawater on exposed nuclear fuel to prevent a full-blown meltdown that could spread radiation to a far vaster area.

The New York Times News Service described what they are doing thus: "They crawl through labyrinths of equipment in utter darkness pierced only by their flashlights, listening for periodic explosions as hydrogen gas escaping from crippled reactors ignites on contact with air. They breathe through uncomfortable respirators or carry heavy oxygen tanks on their backs. They wear white, full-body jumpsuits with snug-fitting hoods that provide scant protection from the invisible radiation sleeting through their bodies."

As of last report, the volunteers were enduring five times the maximum exposure to radiation allowed American workers in nuclear plants.

I do not know what will happen to them. I do know there were tremendous casualties from the conscripts who were brought in to bury Chernobyl though the Soviet authorities tried to limit their exposure to radiation by rapid rotation. Most of them died within months of their tour of duty.

These levels of self-sacrifice, or suicidal behavior, are particularly eye-popping when seen from our eyes. We do have a capacity for self-sacrifice too. We do have a capacity to brave great dangers too, which is in fact what some of our OFWs are doing in volatile areas, but for family. We will risk everything for family, but not much else. The Japanese will do so for things that extend well beyond that. They will do it for the good of Japan and the Japanese people, a thing so ingrained in their psyche it no longer carries the aspect of duty or command, it is reflex action. You can't get any deeper sense of country than that.

It is behavior not unlike the one shown by the "Tora, Tora" pilots, the ones that aimed themselves at American warships toward the close of the War in tribute to the emperor, who was the living symbol or embodiment of the nation, or empire. A stern culture? Or indeed a cruel one? Possibly. But it is also an awe-inspiring one; it is also a heroic one. It is at least something we can learn from, we whose natural instinct is to gather family and take to foreign shores at the first signs of danger. If, or when, Japan pulls through from its worst disaster since Hiroshima and gets back on its feet, reenergizing itself and impressing the world once more with its capacity to rebuild from the ruins, it will be because of the Nameless 50, or the Nameless 200, whatever their number may be, who stayed behind and did what they had to do to make that possible. I don't know what will happen to them.

But I doubt they'll remain nameless for very long.

Where 'susu' means milk

Looking Back

By AMBETH OCAMPO

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

My routine when I arrive in any foreign country is to leave my luggage in the hotel first and head for a nearby supermarket or grocery to buy: a local paper, a local SIM card, bottled water, fruit, and assorted chichiria. From long experience, I know that a basic or survival vocabulary can be built quickly by reading grocery labels. By connecting an object I know from sight to its local name, I can navigate a restaurant menu later. For example, chicken is ayam in Bahasa, fish is ikan, beef is iga, etc.

Many items are the same though: cambing (goat meat), udang (shrimp or prawn, although in Pampanga we call large-headed soft shell shrimp ulang). Mentega for butter sounds almost like mantika. Tahu is soybean.

To delight Facebook friends, I went to the dairy section knowing that the Indonesian word for milk is susu. I took pictures of different cartons, a wide array of full cream milk, skim milk, chocolate milk, soy milk. Even the famous Marca Oso had the Bahasa Indonesia word susu.

As I clicked away, I noticed for the first time that the polar bear in Bear Brand is feeding her cub with a baby bottle! Maybe it's a papa bear, otherwise why is the cub being filled with cow's milk from a can? Shouldn't mama bear be breastfeeding her cub?

Lost in thought, I walked aimlessly and stopped in front of a glass case with a delicious display of Indonesian coconut milk cakes called pukis. This reminded me of an Ilocano dish of eggs, eggplant and onions tossed like an omelet called poki-poki. The stall also reminded me that if you translate "It takes a long time to cut hair" into Ilocano, it is rendered as "Nagbayag ti agpapukis."

Walking through the grocery made me realize that many words in Indonesian are the same as ours: payung (umbrella), gunting (scissors), mahal (expensive), murah (cheap) bayar (to pay), tawar (to bargain), rugi (to lose money), kanan (right), and sabon (soap). The names of some fruits require no translation: papaya, mangga, durian, belimbing and nangka. My friends assured me that if I stayed here a few months, I would be speaking Bahasa Indonesia like a native.

Unlike French, words in Bahasa are pronounced as written. Bahasa does not have complicated rules of grammar and conjugation, leading to sentence constructions that sound like those signs we see on the road every day in the Philippines, for example, the warning against tail-gating: "Wag totok, galit Barok." Any Filipino who wants to learn Bahasa does not start from scratch or zero knowledge because many words are the same in both languages.

What intrigued me though were not so much the similarities with Tagalog or even Ilocano but that more words were similar to Kapampangan. Pork is baboy in Tagalog and babi in both Bahasa and Kapampangan. Cooked rice is kanin in Tagalog but nasi in both Bahasa and Kapampangan. Many words are almost the same like makan (to eat) and mangan or the same as in minum (to drink). As a boy I was told about Indonesians traveling to the Philippines in ancient times, and that Kapampangan came from a place called Lake Toba.

A few days later, while going through the exhibits in the National Museum in Jakarta, I saw words I recognized: large jars to store water are called tempayan, which are tapayan to us. Bowls were mangkuk, small jars were guci or gusi, rings were cincin (singsing to us). Large spoons or ladles were sengdok to them and sandok to us.

In the rooms that contained ancient porcelain were maps showing the pre-historic maritime trade routes of the 9th to the 16th centuries, which started from the south of China down to the Philippines and Indonesia and then back. This exchange of people and goods depended on what history calls the trade winds. Junks used the northeast monsoon or amihan around March to sail from China to parts of the Philippines and Indonesia, turning around in June to catch the southwest monsoon or habagat back to Guangdong and Fujian.

It is fascinating to know that before the Chinese came to trade directly in the Philippines, Arab traders brought goods and Islam to the archipelago as early as the 7th century. And what about the Indonesian seafarers who brought goods and language to our shores even earlier?

My problem with Bahasa, though, are what we call "false friends" or words that are the same but have different meanings. Dulo in Filipino means the end of a line, but in Bahasa it is the beginning of the line, reminding us of the biblical passage that "he who goes last will be first, and he who goes first will be last." When I saw the word pangsit on a menu I presumed it was pancit, but when the food came I was surprised to find fried wonton, which we know in the Philippines as pinsec frito. Alamat means address or residence instead of legend, and anting-anting means earrings instead of amulets. Bawang is an onion and bawang putih is garlic. Mie means noodles, as in Lucky Me.

Their miehun is not our bihon but vermicelli or sotanghon. These daily (mis)adventures in language made my stay in Jakarta very enjoyable. They made me realize that if we look way back in history to a time before the Western powers divided insular Southeast Asia into different colonies in the 16th century, there are many things we have in common, many connections in language and culture with our neighbors that we have since forgotten.

Maharlika – Samu't Sari

GRAND OPENING
Award-winning Filipino actor Ricky Davao is flanked by Monette Pangilinan, Aileen Durano, and Asher Juele during the grand opening of Fashion Clicks last March 18.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Consul General Medardo Macaraig, wife Teresa Roselyn and daughter Raissa Marie pose for a souvenir photo with award-winning actor Ricky Davao at Fashion Clicks grand opening on March 18.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Management and staff of Island Apparel smile for the camera after the successful grand opening of affiliate Fashion Clicks last Friday.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT
Happy birthday to our princess, Rheanna Faith A. Delos Reyes, who will be celebrating her special day tomorrow, March 27, 2011! We love you! Greetings come from Mommy, Daddy, and the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

KICK BUTTS DAY
Marianas High School wins second place in the dance competition during the 6th Annual Kick Butts Day held Thursday at Hopwood Junior High School.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Hopwood Junior High School students show their support for staying tobacco-free at the annual Kick Butts Day held Thursday at the Hopwood campus.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Students of Hopwood Junior High School show off their banner after the parade that celebrated the annual Kick Butts Day.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

YoungStyle

KIDS' KRAFTS

Leapin' lizards! Is it a dinosaur?

The lizard you make won't grow to be a nuisance like those in Florida. PAUL TOPLE/AKRON BEACON JOURNAL/MCT

By KATHY ANTONIOTTI
AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

Stories of kamikaze lizards, once considered an urban legend in south Florida, were proven true last year when temperatures dropped so low the green iguanas went into hibernation and began falling from the trees in a death-like trance.

The species, native to Central and South America, have done well in the warm climate after irresponsible owners released them into the wild when they got too big or the novelty of owning one wore off.

Now, they are considered a nuisance to homeowners who find the prehistoric-looking herbivores eating their gardens and swimming in their pools.

Although the reptiles, which can live more than 15 years and grow to more than 6 feet in length, look fearsome, they generally run from confrontation. Awake during the day, they do not attack people or their pets. But watch out for their tails — they can deliver a stinging whip when they are provoked.

The iguana is not the only nonnative animal to do well in southern Florida. Conservationists are concerned Burmese pythons, former pets and zoo animals that were released into Everglades National Park, are upsetting the balance of nature. The snakes, with an estimated population of 150,000, have been known to eat American alligators and the endangered Key Largo wood rat.

I was introduced to iguanas while watching eight of them who lived under a dock near our cottage on the coast of Florida Bay last month. The largest, the 4-foot patriarch of the family, was definitely in charge, insisting the yearlings mind their manners.

I found directions for making this lizard in the book "Make it Yourself" by Shooting Star Press.

Supplies you will need:

- Cardboard paper towel tube.
- White cardstock.
- Green and brown acrylic paint and brush.
- Scrap of red construction paper.
- White craft glue.
- Scissors.
- Black marker.

Paint the tube in a green and brown design and set aside.

Cut a strip of cardstock 8 inches long and about 2 inches wide. Cut a jagged edge along one long edge.

Cut four legs and feet, bending up a half-inch tab at the top to glue to the body and make another bend down at the center.

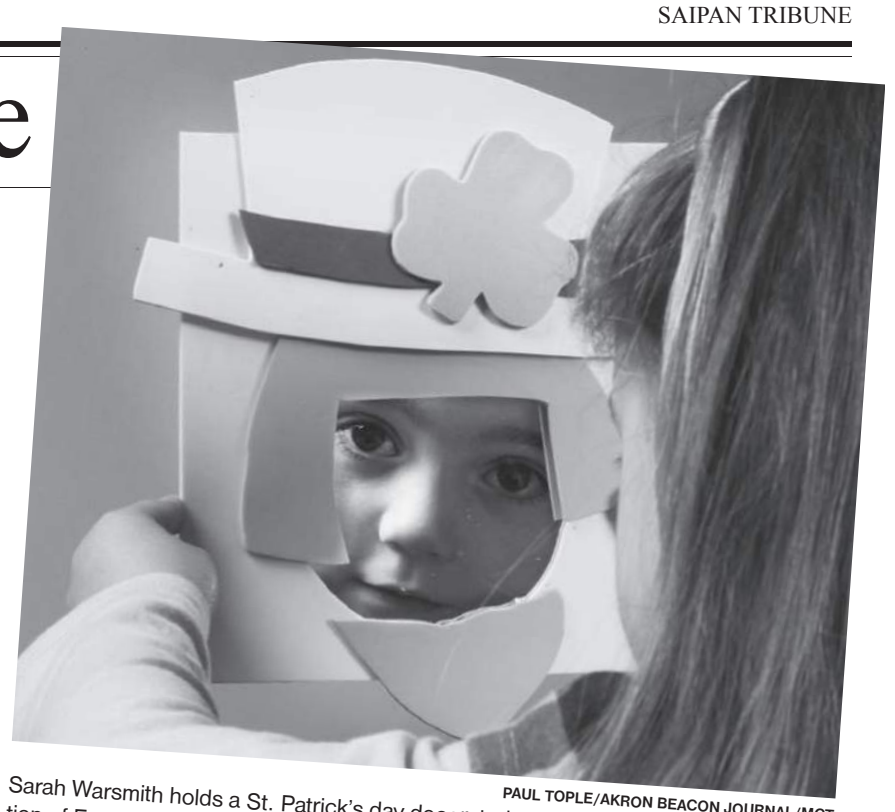
Paint the strip brown and the legs a combination green and brown. Set aside. Draw claws on the front of the lizard's feet.

Cut a scrap of red paper 1 inch by 3 inches. Cut a triangle from one end.

Cut two 3-inch narrow triangles out of one end of the tube to create a mouth and a triangle from the rear to create a tail.

Assemble the lizard by gluing the tongue to the inside of the bottom of the tube in front, the spine to the back and the legs on either side.

Draw eyes on either side of the lizard's head with a marker.



Sarah Warsmith holds a St. Patrick's day decorated mirror featured in the March edition of Family Fun Magazine. PAUL TOPLE/AKRON BEACON JOURNAL/MCT

Little leprechauns reflect on holiday

By KATHY ANTONIOTTI
AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

I'm fond of using the expression "if you are lucky enough to be born Irish, you are lucky enough," especially around St. Patrick's Day, which honors the patron saint of Ireland.

Americans of Irish descent have come to embrace the heritage handed down by ancestors, many of whom fled their homeland during the great Irish potato famine in the mid-1800s when millions had to leave or starve.

St. Patrick's Day in America is a secular holiday that people celebrate with parades, parties and what we call "the wearin' o' the green," which, by the way, is also the title of an 18th century Irish folk song.

But in Ireland, where March 17 has been observed for more than 1,000 years, St. Patrick's Day is a religious holiday commemorating the death of St. Patrick, who is credited with bringing Christianity to the country. The words of the old ballad have a special meaning that expresses the sadness of Irish Catholics during the Irish Rebellion of 1798, when wearing a shamrock and the color green was a sign of rebellion and grounds for hanging.

You can read more about Ireland's tumultuous history online at http://www.history.com/topics/st-patricks-day.

You can "try on a little leprechaun" using these instructions I found at http://www.familyfun.go.com/crafts/try-on-leprechaun-985020/. The St. Patrick's Day decorated mirror is a featured craft in the March edition of Family Fun magazine.

Supplies you will need:

- Small mirror, 4 to 5 inches wide.
- Printable templates from the website.
- Sheets of craft foam in light and dark green, yellow and orange.
- Tracing paper.
- Pencil.
- Scissors.
- White craft glue.
- Tape.
- String for hanging (optional).

Download the patterns from the website.

Use tracing paper to transfer the frame, hat, hat band, beard, hair and shamrock onto colored foam sheets and cut out. Make the frame yellow, the hat light green, the beard and hair orange, and the hat band brown. You will need to trace three leaves and the stem out of the darker green foam and glue them together on the hat band to form a shamrock.

Cut out the circle from the yellow frame and mount the mirror to the back of the yellow frame with tape.

Using the photo as a guide, attach the orange beard and hair to the yellow frame with glue.

Layer the hat on top of the hair, the hat band onto the hat and the shamrock on top of the hat band.

Tape a string to the back of the frame to hang, if you would like.

Saints day takes imaginative leap

By KATHY ANTONIOTTI
AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

There is a good chance you have never celebrated St. Urho's Day. But many people, particularly Minnesotians of Finnish descent, know St. Urho (pronounced OOR-hoe) as the patron saint of Finland.

The mythical St. Urho's, "feast day," celebrated on March 16, is the Scandinavian answer to St. Patrick's Day on March 17.

St. Urho is credited with saving Finland's grape crop by driving the grasshoppers out.

Never mind that grapes don't grow in Finland.

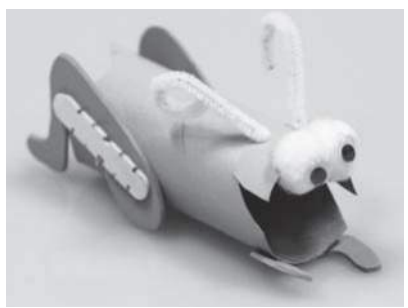
In fact, the Bishop of Finland, St. Henry, is the real patron saint of the country.

St. Patrick, who was also a bishop, is credited with driving the snakes (probably a metaphor for paganism) from Ireland when he introduced Christianity to the country.

Although St. Urho's feats are fictitious, every state in the union recognizes the holiday. There are St. Urho fan clubs in Canada and Finland as well as the United States.

Our mythical young hero is said to have lived in Finland before the last glacial period, when the climate was warmer. He allegedly saved the country by standing up to hordes of grape-eating grasshoppers and yelling (in a menacing voice) "Heinasirkka, heinasirkka, menetaalta hiiten," which loosely translates into "Grasshopper, grasshopper, get outta here now."

Not to be outdone by St. Patrick's Day festivities, Minnesotans began celebrating their champion about 60 years ago. He was invented by a Finnish-American named Richard Mattson, who worked in Virginia, Minn.



MIKE CARDEW/AKRON BEACON JOURNAL/MCT
Make this cricket out of a toilet paper tube in celebration of St. Urho's Day.

To add to this confusing state of affairs, a statue honoring St. Urho stands in Menahga, Minn. St. Urho is holding a pitchfork with a huge grasshopper impaled in its tines.

I made a grasshopper using instructions I found for making a cricket at Better Homes and Gardens on the Web. Turning one insect into another doesn't seem nearly as strange as the story of St. Urho. Find a pattern for the insect at http://www.bhg.com/holidays/chirping-cricket.

Supplies you will need:

- Toilet paper tube.
- Green paint and brush.
- Green foam scraps.
- Chenille stem.
- 2 yellow pompoms.
- 2 wiggle eyes.
- Scissors.
- Fast-grab tacky glue.

Paint the tube green and set it aside to dry.

Download the pattern from the website and cut out. Trace two legs and one arm onto green craft foam and cut out.

Cut the back of the tube into a point for a tail. Cut curved wedges from the sides of the front of the tube for a mouth (see photo).

Glue the legs onto either side of the tube and the arms to the underside of the front of the tube.

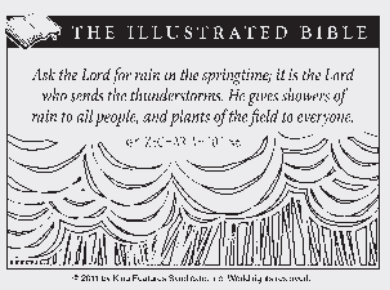
Poke two holes in the top near the front of the tube for the antennae. Fold the chenille stem in half and thread through the holes. Curl the ends.

Glue two wiggle eyes to the pompoms, then glue the pompoms to the front, top edge of the tube.

BIBLE TRIVIA

By WILSON CASEY

1. Is the Book of Ruth in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. In 2 Kings 13, what prophet ordered a king to shoot arrows out of a window? Paul, Job, Elisha, David
3. How many books of the Bible (KJV) are only three letters long when spelled? 0, 1, 2, 3
4. What prophet saw "the tents of Cushan in affliction"? Japheth, Noah, Hezekiah, Habakkuk
5. Who said, "Lord, increase our faith"? Jonah, Disciples, Moses, Jacob


THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE
Ask the Lord for rain in the springtime; it is the Lord who sends the thunderstorms. He gives showers of rain to all people, and plants of the field to everyone.

6. From Joel 2:6, what shall all faces gather? Sunlight, Blackness, Fear, Warmth

ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) Elisha; 3) 1; 4) Habakkuk; 5) Disciples; 6) Blackness For more trivia, log on to www.TriviaGuy.com.

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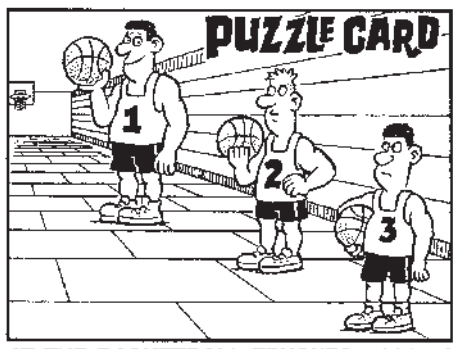
PUZZLE CARD



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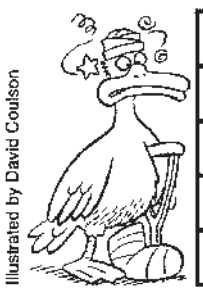
AT THE BASKETBALL TRYOUTS, which of the above three players turned out to be the tallest?

Answer: Player number three.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

Illustrated by David Coulson



LAME
LACE
LACK
LUCK
DUCK

DON'T "QUACK UP" ON THIS ONE!

Everything will be "ducky" if you can solve these problems in under five minutes. In this type of problem you are given a word that must be changed into another word in a series of moves. During each move, you must change one letter in the previous word to form a new word. In our example, we changed LAME to DUCK in four moves. See if you can change the following words in four moves each.

1. RARE to FIND
2. SORE to HEAD
3. NAIL to FILE
4. TINE to FORK
5. LIFE to WORK

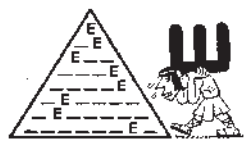
Answers:
1. RARE, FARE, FIRE, FINE, FIND.
2. SORE, SERE, HERE, HERD, HEAD.
3. NAIL, FAIL, FALL, FILL, FILE.
4. TINE, FINE, FIRE, FORE, FORK.
5. LIFE, WIFE, WIRE, WORE, WORK.

FABULOUS FIVES! Professor Flunkum challenges you to add four fives together in such a way that their sum will equal 6 1/2.

Answer: 5 + 5/5 + .5 = 5 + 1 +1/2 = 6 1/2.

THE "E" PYRAMID! As you move down the word pyramid shown here, each word contains the same letters as the word above it, plus a new letter. We give you all the E's. Here are some hints from the top down:

1. A direction (abbr.)
2. In reference to.
3. A period of time.
4. A unit of area.
5. Used for shipping.
6. Birds and bees love it.
7. Definite; fixed.
8. A sugar or tea tin.



Answers: The words are: E (East), re, era, acre, crate, nectar, certain, canister.

Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ It was venerable American newscaster David Brinkley who made the following sage observation: "The one function TV news performs very well is that when there is no news, we give it to you with the same emphasis as if there were."

■ According to Guinness World Records, the oldest cat in the world was named Crème Puff and lived to the ripe old age of 38 years and three days.

■ If you do much printing, you might not be surprised to learn that if you figure out the cost by volume, the average ink cartridge for a printer costs seven times more than Dom Perignon champagne.

■ On an average day in the United States, 90 million cans of beer will be consumed.

■ If you're planning a summer jaunt to Atlantic City, N.J., this year, you might want to stop by Margate City, just a couple of miles south of the gambling mecca. While you're there you can see the oldest zoomorphic structure in the United States. Lucy the Elephant, built in 1882 by James V. Lafferty, is 65 feet tall and has served at various times as a cottage, a business office, a restaurant and a tavern. In 1976 it was designated a National Historic Landmark.

■ It was United Airlines that hired the first stewardesses for its flights, back in 1930. In addition to being attractive and charming, stewardesses had to be registered nurses.

■ Those who study such things say that in ancient Mesopotamia, it was not unusual for those of the wealthy classes to crush semiprecious stones and adhere the powder to their lips.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "In this world there are only two tragedies. One is not getting what one wants, and the other is getting it. The last is much the worst."—Oscar Wilde

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MAGIC MAZE ● FICTIONAL ANIMALS

D Q O L I K S G D B Y W T E R
P M K I T W I F D B Y W U I U
S Q R O M I M N K I F D B N Z
X W S O U L B S G Q O N I N L
O J N H J L A B F K D C C I A
Y T O W J A C K A L O P E W V
T S O Q P R M N L R K N I N H
F E P T C D B A N Z R Y G E Y
W V Y G G I P S S I M E D B U
S R Q P D L E I F R A G R A N
M L J I H F A A B M U P E B L

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Babe
Ben
Br'er Rabbit
Garfield
Jackalope
King Kong
Lady
Miss Piggy
Pumbaa
Simba
Snoopy
Toto
Unicorn
Ursa Major
Willard

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	−		×		25
×		×		+	
	×		−		23
−		+		×	
	+		×		18
25		22		28	

2 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

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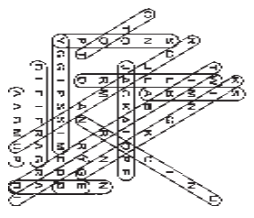
MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

7	−	2	×	5	25
×		×		+	
4	×	8	−	9	23
−		+		×	
3	+	6	×	2	18
	+		×		28
25		22		28	

Cat washes paws in water bowl

Paw's corner by Sam Mazzotta

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I have an 11-year-old black cat, "Andie," who uses her litter box and then right afterward goes over to her water bowl and puts her paws into it. I scold her when she does it, but it doesn't help. I have to change her water several times a day. How can I get her to stop doing this?—Betty, via e-mail

DEAR BETTY: Scolding won't help, unfortunately, because Andie either finds this act to be pleasurable or a relief from discomfort.

First, there are a few breeds of cat that actually like (or at least tolerate) being around and in water—including swimming. Andie might have this trait, or she might not. She may just like doing it and has developed a habit of standing in the water bowl immediately after litter box use. If this is the case, you can try placing a tray or bowl of water near the litter box and guide Andie over to that after her toilet, then empty the water until the next time. Or, as soon as Andie gets into her drinking bowl, gently lift her out—no scolding—and take the bowl away for a while. From there on, pick up Andie just before she gets into the bowl, put her down gently, and feed her a treat. Do this enough times and she just may "get it."

Another issue that's just as likely is that Andie's paws are uncomfortable after litter box use. Check her paws, especially between the pads; are there nicks or irritated areas? Is litter embedded between the pads? Whether you see any problems or not, try a couple of different litter brands to see if it makes a difference. Also, talk to Andie's vet about her behavior.

■ ■ ■

Send your pet questions and tips to ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. Find more pet advice and resources at www.pawscorner.com.

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Record player spins out art fun

Donna's Day Creative family fun

by Donna Erickson

I still have my little record player from when I was a kid. It has polka dots on the lid, and the inside is filled with memories. Remember all those Beatles albums? Whenever I look at my record player stashed away in the back of my closet, "She Loves You" plays in my ears, over and over, 'round and 'round.

If you or your parents don't have your own family player anymore, borrow one from someone who has one stored in a basement or attic, or you might be able to pick one up at a garage sale. I see them around, here and there. Then you'll be all set for record-player plate art.

All right, let's go for a spin!

Here's the stuff you'll need:

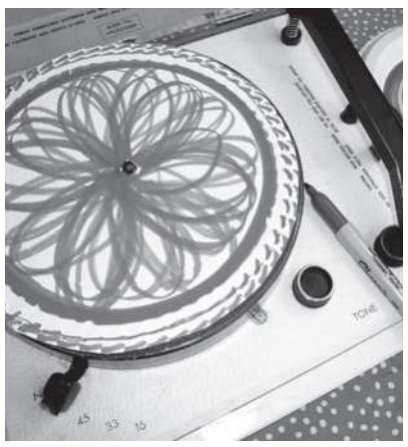
■ Old record player (you don't need a record player needle on it for this activity)
■ Plain white paper plates
■ Markers

Here's the fun:

Poke a hole in the center of a paper plate. I don't bother with a ruler. I just eyeball it. Place it on the spindle. Now say to the kids: "What speed? 33, 45 or 78 rpm?"

Turn on the player, and while the plate is spinning, pick up a marker and very lightly place the tip toward the center of the plate. Then start moving your hand outward toward the rim. You will see a swirl of color begin to form. While the same plate is still spinning, place another marker on a fresh spot and draw that color outward also. A lovely color combination of connecting circles will appear.

Take the plate off the spindle and replace it with another. This time, move the marker so that it is heading toward the center of the plate. Something new is going to happen.



You will end up with loop-de-loops! "How did that happen?" they might exclaim. It might make you a little dizzy, but the kids will think it's gorgeous! And really rather amazing.

Finally, you can either arrange an assortment of these pieces of art on your wall or cut out a circle or square in the middle of one plate and tape a class picture to the back. Punch a hole in the top, hang your plate from ribbon, and you'll have a new, highly personalized wall decoration.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning series "Donna's Day" is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit www.donnasday.com and link to the NEW Donna's Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is "Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families."

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Life & Style

Liz Taylor buried in small ceremony at LA cemetery

GLENDALE, Calif. (AP)—Elizabeth Taylor's family mourned the screen legend in a brief private funeral service Thursday at a Southern California cemetery famous for being the final resting place of Hollywood celebrities, including her good friend Michael Jackson.

Inside the sprawling Forest Lawn Cemetery, barricades blocked access to the funeral, where about four dozen family members mourned the actress during a service that lasted about an hour, said Glendale police spokesman Tom Lorenz. Five black stretch limousines transported Taylor's family to and from the funeral, but no procession was held.

Taylor died early Wednesday of congestive heart failure while surrounded by her four children at Los Angeles' Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, where she had been hospitalized for about six weeks.

Taylor, who was infamously married eight times to seven husbands, converted to Judaism before her 1959 wedding to Eddie Fisher. Jewish customs call for a burial within 48 hours of death.

In addition to Jackson, the cemetery is the final resting place for such stars as Clark Gable, Jean Harlow, W.C. Fields, Red Skelton, Gracie Allen, Walt Disney and Nat King Cole.

Taylor, the star of such films as "BUtterfield 8," "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" and "Cleopatra," won three Academy Awards, including a special one for her humanitarian work. She was an ardent and early supporter of AIDS research, when HIV was new to the industry and beyond.

"I admired Elizabeth Taylor enormously and feel heartsick losing her, especially with all of her charitable works," said Ann Berry, a fan and character actress who lives nearby and visited the cemetery with a friend to pay their respects to the star.

AP
A caravan of limousines containing the family of Elizabeth Taylor arrives at the Forest Lawn memorial park and mortuary in Glendale, Calif., on Thursday, March 24, 2011.

Several television news crews documented the service from across the street while news helicopters swirled overhead and students got out of class at the nearby Cerritos Elementary School.

Taylor underwent at least 20 major operations during her life and nearly died from a bout with pneumonia in 1990. In 1994 and 1995, she had both hip joints replaced, and in February 1997, she underwent surgery to remove a benign brain tumor. In 1983, she acknowledged a 35-year addiction to sleeping pills and pain killers, and was treated for alcohol and drug abuse at the Betty Ford Clinic in Rancho Mirage, Calif.

Survivors include Taylor's daughters Maria Burton-Carson and Liza Todd-Tivey, sons Christopher and Michael Wilding, 10 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Taylor's publicist said any details of a memorial service would likely be announced at a later date.

The National 'Win Win' with song for Giamatti film

AP
In this May 21, 2010 file photo, Matt Berninger of The National performs during their concert in Los Angeles.

NEW YORK (AP)—The members of The National loved the movie "Win Win." In fact, the rockers loved it so much that when director Tom McCarthy asked them to write music for it, they were a little worried their song might not live up to expectations.

"There's that movie afterglow after you see a great movie, which we all had when 'Win Win' was over," said lead singer Matt Berninger in a recent interview.

"(But) when you have someone who's working on a film, what a huge creative mountain that is to climb. To finish a feature film and then you just have this song that's going to end their film. ... We were really, really nervous ... if it was going to work or not," he said.

"Win Win" stars Paul Giamatti as Mike Flaherty, an attorney whose main clients are elderly folks living in his small New Jersey town. Things change quickly for Flaherty when his law firm isn't doing well and he decides to take guardianship of an aged client to earn extra cash. He also takes in the client's teenage grandson, a skilled wrestler, and an advantage for Flaherty, who is also a high school wrestling coach.

"Tom was able to paint an unbelievably realistic and honest portrait of normal people—showing their heroic sides and failures," Berninger said.

Berninger said the band felt a buzz after seeing the movie.

The band's goal was to write a song "that would sort of keep that buzz going or something."

They came up with "Think You Can Wait," a mellow, yet intense piano groove highlighted by Berninger's baritone. It was written by Berninger and guitarist Aaron Dessner. Aaron's brother Bryce, and another set of brothers, Scott and Bryan Devendorf, round out the band.

"We knew where people would experience the song—sitting in a theater. We knew exactly how that was going to work (and) we thought of that a little. . What kind of song will make the experience work well and not conflict or compete with the film?" Berninger said.

The song was written while the band was on tour. Though it was the first time they had written specifically for a film, Berninger said it wasn't difficult. The timing was perfect, he added, because the band isn't quite ready to create the follow-up to 2010's "High Violet."

"None of us were ready to sort of dive in (and) we're still not ready to dive in the process of thinking of a new record," he said. "So this was like a small exercise in writing."

The movie, which earned glowing reviews at the Sundance Film Festival, opened last week in New York and Los Angeles; it opens nationwide in April. The "Win Win" soundtrack was released digitally this week; the CD and vinyl are out next month.

The band had been scheduled to perform in Japan last week, but had to reschedule because of the earthquake and tsunami.

"We've been following every moment and just praying that it doesn't get much worse," Berninger said. "We've got a lot of friends over there. Everyone thankfully is fine."

5 most outstanding Paul Giamatti performances

By CHRISTY LEMIRE
AP MOVIE CRITIC

LOS ANGELES (AP)—He's a character actor who became a leading man. But no matter the amount of face time, Paul Giamatti has always brought his own signature style—and a face that's wonderfully unusual—to the proceedings. He can be curmudgeonly or scheming, funny or sweet, and sometimes even heartbreaking. He's usually the best thing in a bad movie, but he can also elevate a good movie to greatness.

With his latest comedy, "Win Win," opening in more theaters this week, here's a look at Giamatti's five best film performances.

■ **"American Splendor" (2003):** As comic book writer Harvey Pekar, Giamatti finally got a shot at a leading role, and he was tremendous. This surprising and inventive film, which was part-documentary, part-fictionalized depiction of Pekar's life and work, often found Giamatti playing the part alongside the actual Pekar himself. He always felt real, writing about the things we all complain about, grousing even after finding love and building a family. Giamatti found the vulnerability beneath the writer's cantankerous demeanor, especially when Pekar learned he'd been diagnosed with testicular cancer. It's one of the best films of the last decade.

■ **"Sideways" (2004):** Director and co-writer Alexander Payne's middle-aged coming-of-age tale about two friends on a wine-hopping road trip found the divorced, self-serious Giamatti bouncing beautifully off Thomas Haden Church as his overconfident, party-boy pal. They were an odd couple but never felt like types. A lot of that has to do with Payne and Jim Taylor's Oscar-winning screenplay, which is typically smart and multi-layered. But Giamatti created a character who's a real guy, full of sadness and soured dreams, all of which would come spilling out if it weren't for the flimsy wall he'd built around himself. His scenes with the lovely Virginia Madsen made you ache for him, just to see him be happy, finally.

AP
In this 2005 promotional photo originally provided by Twentieth Century Fox, actors Paul Giamatti, left, and Thomas Haden Church appear in a scene from "Sideways."

■ **"Cinderella Man" (2005):** Giamatti pretty much stole this thing right out from under Russell Crowe—no small feat—and earned an Oscar nomination for best supporting actor. As Joe Gould, the persuasive boxing manager to Crowe's Jim Braddock, Giamatti played a man who put his considerable energy and resourcefulness into maintaining the appearance that he was still thriving financially. After heavier, introspective roles in "American Splendor" and "Sideways," he reminded us here that he's just as capable of tearing it up as a fast-talking force of nature. Ron Howard's film was inspirational and crowd-pleasing, but Giamatti was the one who delivered the real knockout.

■ **"Barney's Version" (2010):** Giamatti won the Golden Globe Award for best actor in a musical or comedy earlier this year for his portrayal of Barney Panofsky, the hilariously flawed hero of Mordecai Richler's novel, a Montreal TV producer looking back on his life and the loves who defined it. He ages across some 30 years with his three wives, the most notable of them played by Rosamund Pike, who provides a graceful foil for Barney's selfish brashness. Barney does some questionable and even cruel things, and could be viewed as an unlikable character, but Giamatti finds the sympathetic side to him and makes you root for him nonetheless.

■ **"Private Parts" (1997):** Howard Stern's biopic—based on his memoir, and starring Stern as himself, of course—provided an early major role for Giamatti. He was known by the delightful nickname "Pig Vomit," and was a barely fictionalized version of the program director who tormented Stern at WNBC Radio, forcing him to repeatedly say the station's call letters in a sing-songy voice: "W-Ehhhhhn-B-C." Eventually, he gets so annoyed with the shock jock's antics, he calls Stern the anti-Christ. Late last year on Stern's radio show, while promoting "Barney's Version," Giamatti said he didn't know he was playing a real guy: "All I knew was that I was supposed to have this kind of stupid Southern accent." But he left a lasting impression, as always.

Jury selection begins in LA for Jackson doctor

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The judge's first question to the 159 prospective jurors in a Los Angeles courthouse was simple: How many of you have not heard about the case of the doctor accused in Michael Jackson's death?

First there was silence and then two lonely hands rose.

As jury selection began Thursday in the involuntary manslaughter trial of Dr. Conrad Murray, another, more complicated question became apparent: How will the judge shield jurors from the media circus that awaits, and help them do their duty?

"Real live cases are not scripted episodes of TV shows," Superior Court Judge Michael Pastor cautioned.

Murray

Murray, a towering 6-foot-5, stood and greeted the panelists with a soft, "Good morning, ladies and gentlemen," as he was introduced along with lawyers and prosecutors gathered in a jury assembly room.

Pastor mentioned the pop superstar once in his speech: "The alleged victim being Michael Jackson."

He warned the prospective jurors not to read blogs or the Internet and not to tweet. He refused to allow cameras in court during jury selection, though he will during testimony.

The selection process was so tightly guarded that prospects were not allowed to leave the jury room until they finished 29-page questionnaires that determine their eligibility, suitability and ability to serve.

Concerned that outsiders might try to reach the panelists, Pastor had his staff post signs in all elevators and courthouse hallways warning of the penalty for contacting jurors.

Zsa Zsa hospitalized after Liz Taylor death

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Zsa Zsa Gabor's publicist says the shock of Elizabeth Taylor's death made Gabor fear she was next and sent her to a Los Angeles hospital with high blood pressure.

John Blanchette says the 94-year-old celebrity learned from television news Wednesday morning that her friend and one-time neighbor had died.

Gabor

Blanchette says Gabor's blood pressure soared and she commented that after the recent deaths of Jane Russell and Liz Taylor she believed she would be next.

Blanchette says Gabor was hospitalized and released Wednesday evening.

However, the account was challenged by Ed Lozzi, publicist for Gabor's daughter, Francesca Hilton. He says Hilton called the hospital and was told her mother had not been there.

A Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center spokeswoman declined to comment, citing privacy laws.

Rep says Charlie Sheen didn't hire book agent

NEW YORK (AP)—So much for a Charlie Sheen book deal.

Sheen spokesman Larry Solters says the former "Two and a Half Men" sitcom star never hired literary agent Peter McGuigan, who has been contacting publishers in recent weeks about a possible Sheen memoir.

Several publishers have told The Associated Press they rejected the proposal, citing Sheen's high price tag and unpredictable behavior.

The 45-year-old Sheen has made headlines for his marital problems, wild partying and hospital stays.

He was fired from his hit CBS show two and a half weeks ago. He then alleged breach of contract and sued the show's producers for $100 million. He has boasted he could get $10 million for a book.

McGuigan hasn't returned a message left Thursday seeking comment.

Warsaw Museum gets long-lost Chopin letters

WARSAW, Poland (AP)—A collection of Frederic Chopin's letters telling of the Polish composer's daily life, from giving lessons to the hot chocolate he drank, have gone on display in Warsaw's Chopin museum more than six decades after they went missing.

The six letters written by Chopin to his parents and sisters back home in Warsaw in 1845-1848 are the centerpiece of an exhibit that opened Thursday. It will run for one month after which they will be made available to researchers.

The collection of 47 items also includes letters from the piano composer's Scottish pupil Jane Stirling to Chopin's sister, as well as other items, such as a ticket for a rehearsal concert on July 26, 1840.

The letters were written from Paris and Nohant, where Chopin used to spend summers and talk about his time with friends, his painful work on the Sonata in G minor, and the chocolate he liked to drink.

Although the contents of the letters were known to researchers, the originals were believed to have been lost or destroyed during World War II.

"This is a great day for us. This is an invaluable collection that we have acquired," museum curator Alicja Knast told a news conference.

She said that until 1939 the collection was in the hands of Laura Ciechomska, a grandniece of Chopin's.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Hats On: Winslet book features hat-wearing celebs

NEW YORK (AP)—It's hats on for Kate Winslet. The Academy Award-winning actress has a deal for "The Golden Hat," a concept book meant to raise awareness about autism. It's inspired by a poem, also called the "Golden Hat," in which a hat enables an autistic child to communicate. The poem was written by an autistic boy, who is also the son of Winslet's friend. The book features pictures of Meryl Streep, Javier Bardem and other celebrities wearing the "magical" hat. Simon & Schuster announced Thursday that the book will be out in November.

NY school wins visit from 'Wimpy Kid' author

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP)—The reception was anything but wimpy at a Buffalo, N.Y., school for the author of the best-selling "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" series. Tapestry Charter School students leapt to their feet and screamed at the sight of author Jeff Kinney on Thursday. The school won a visit from Kinney and a red-carpet movie premiere of "Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules" in a contest sponsored by 20th Century Fox and Parade magazine. Kinney signed stacks of his books for a wound-up lunchroom crowd. He was joined Thursday by movie cast members Zachary Gordon, Robert Capron and Devon Bostick. The popular books are told from the perspective of middle schooler Greg Heffley and convey angst over growing up through funny stories and simple sketches.

Historian Foner among 3 winners of Bancroft Prize

NEW YORK (AP)—Historian Eric Foner has won another prize. Foner's "The Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln and American Slavery" is one of three winners of the coveted Bancroft Prize for history. The prize's administrator, Columbia University, announced Thursday that the other recipients are Sara Dubow's "Ourselves Unborn" and Christopher Tomlins' "Freedom Bound." Winners each receive $10,000. Foner, a Columbia professor, won the Bancroft in 1989 for "Reconstruction." His latest book also won the $50,000 Lincoln Prize.

PG-13 version of 'King's Speech' to be released

NEW YORK (AP)—"The King's Speech" has been washed out with soap. The Weinstein Company announced Thursday that the Oscar best picture winner will be released in a PG-13 version. The original release of the film was rated R by the Motion Picture Association of America for a handful of swears. The Weinstein Company didn't say what edits were made to alter the rating. The new cut will open April 1 on 1,000 screens, replacing the R-rated original. The long-rumored move is expected to widen the film's audience and help boost the box office, which has reached $132.9 million domestically. Colin Firth stars as stammering King George VI, whose angry swearing fit helps him momentarily overcome his speech problem. Firth has said the film should "stand as it is.

Queen Elizabeth to visit Australia for meeting

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Australia's prime minister says Queen Elizabeth II will visit the country this year for a meeting of national leaders of the former British empire. Prime Minister Julia Gillard says in a statement Friday that the 84-year-old British monarch and her husband Prince Philip will attend the biennial Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in the west coast city of Perth in late October. The Queen last visited Australia in 2006 to open the Melbourne Commonwealth Games.

Thieves steal diamond ring at Tiffany's in Paris

PARIS (AP)—Police say three men pretending to be customers stole a euro250,000 ($353,200) diamond ring from the Tiffany & Co. store in Paris' upscale Printemps department store. A Paris police official said Thursday's heist happened at around 1030 GMT. Three men posing as customers asked to look at several very expensive rings. They eventually decided on a three-carat diamond set on a platinum ring. The thieves took advantage of a moment's inattention by the sales person to make off with the ring, also avoiding detection by Printemp's security guards.

Three may be right number for attending school prom

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am a female high school junior with many friends I love and a boyfriend I care for very much. A number of my friends are gay.

One girl, "Belinda," is a year older than I am. She told me a couple of years ago that she is a lesbian. I have done everything I can to help her and support her. Last year, Belinda shared that she loves me more than as a friend. She would like to take me to the prom this year, and I would like to go with her.

Because I am already involved in a relationship with a boy, should I not be Belinda's escort? If I go, how do I tell my parents?

LOYAL FRIEND IN OHIO

DEAR LOYAL FRIEND: It's time you have another talk with Belinda and explain to her that you like her very much as a friend, but not in the same way that she feels about you. Because you are already involved in a relationship, you and your boyfriend could (possibly) attend the prom with Belinda as a threesome -- but you should not be her "date." If this turns out to be the solution to your problem, I'm sure your parents would have no objection to it.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am a widow. My husband and I enjoyed traveling all the years we were married. Since his death I've taken one trip to Florida alone. It was OK, but not the same, of course, without a loved one to share the experience. I really miss going places and seeing things.

My son and his family take lots of mini-weekend trips. I would love to be asked to go along occasionally. I am not sure if they don't ask me because they can't afford the extra expense of an additional person, or because they want privacy. I can afford to pay my own way. I don't know how to let them know I'd love to be included once in a while.

I know there are trips for seniors, but I'm not good at mingling with new people. I have always been family-oriented. The discomfort of traveling with a group of new people would outweigh the fun for me. What do you suggest?

LITTLE BIT LONELY

DEAR LITTLE BIT LONELY: Mention ONCE to your son and his wife that you'd love to be invited to go with them on an occasional mini-weekend getaway -- and that you'd be glad to pay your way. They may take you up on it. However, if they don't, do not bring it up again.

I strongly urge you not to restrict yourself in making new acquaintances. Find new interests now that you are alone. Fight the instinct to isolate yourself. If you don't want to travel with a group of strangers, ask some of your women friends if they would be interested in traveling with you. There are exciting times ahead for you, but you must be willing to assert some independence and reach out.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: How do you respond if you're dating a much older man and someone asks if he is your father?

THE YOUNGER WOMAN IN VERO BEACH, FLA.

DEAR YOUNGER WOMAN: You just reply, no, he's someone you're dating. Say it with good humor and without being defensive. If there is a large age discrepancy, it's a logical question.

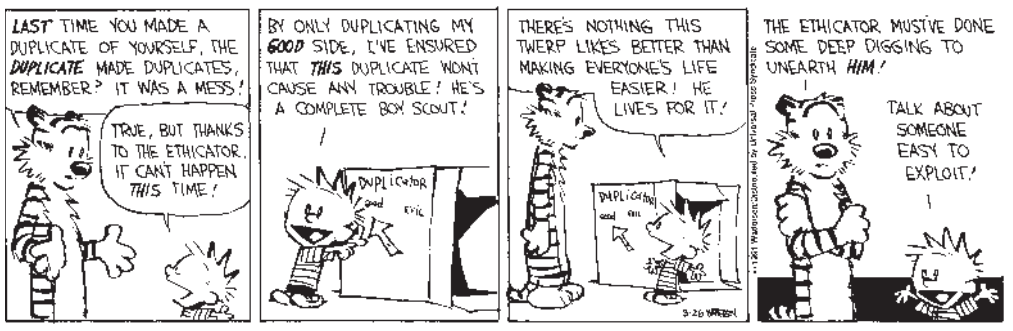
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

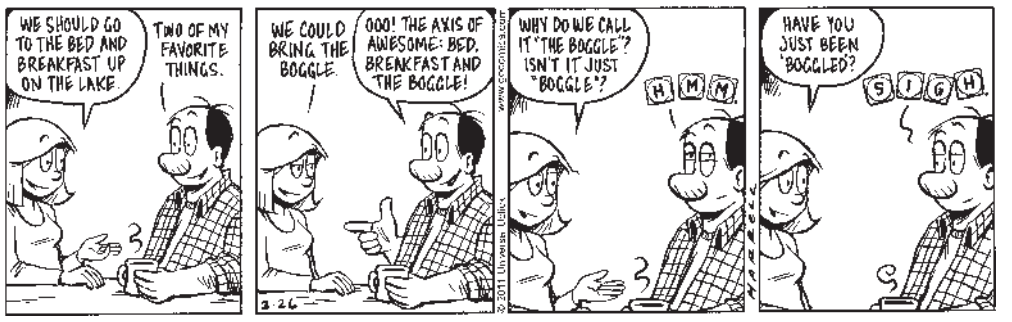

LAST TIME YOU MADE A DUPLICATE OF YOURSELF, THE DUPLICATE MADE DUPLICATES, REMEMBER? IT WAS A MESS!
TRUE, BUT THANKS TO THE ETHICATOR, IT CAN'T HAPPEN THIS TIME!
BY ONLY DUPLICATING MY GOOD SIDE, I'VE ENSURED THAT THIS DUPLICATE WON'T CAUSE ANY TROUBLE! HE'S A COMPLETE BOY SCOUT!
DUPLICATOR
good
evil
THERE'S NOTHING THIS TWERP LIKES BETTER THAN MAKING EVERYONE'S LIFE EASIER! HE LIVES FOR IT!
DUPLICATOR
THE ETHICATOR MUSTVE DONE SOME DEEP DIGGING TO UNEARTH HIM!
TALK ABOUT SOMEONE EASY TO EXPLOIT!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

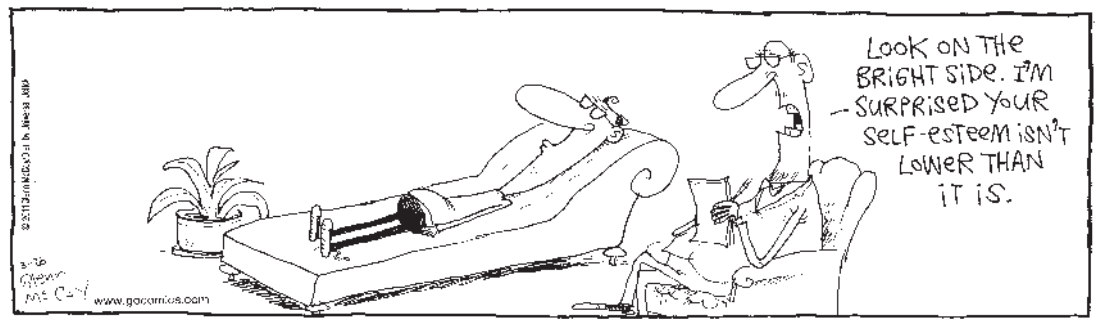
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WE SHOULD GO TO THE BED AND BREAKFAST UP ON THE LAKE.
TWO OF MY FAVORITE THINGS.
WE COULD BRING THE BOGGLE.
OOO! THE AXIS OF AWESOME: BED, BREAKFAST AND THE BOGGLE!
WHY DO WE CALL IT "THE BOGGLE"? ISN'T IT JUST "BOGGLE"?
HMM
HAVE YOU JUST BEEN BOGGLED?
SIGH

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Weasel's cousin
6 Burn aids
11 With candor
12 Immature insects
14 Armadas
15 Welcomes
16 Bleacherite
17 Leaked slowly
19 Eng. course
20 Being, to Brutus
22 Kans. neighbor
23 Ancient strings
24 Blank verse's lack
26 1-Across et al.
28 Common Mkt.
30 Pick a target
31 Brownish songbird
35 Pillages
39 Simple
40 Deteriorate
42 Old woman's home?
43 "Monty Python" opener
44 Breathing problem
46 Coach Shula
47 Some bedding
49 140-characters-or-less posts
51 "Some Like It Hot" star
52 Entertain grandly
53 Flight components
54 Worship

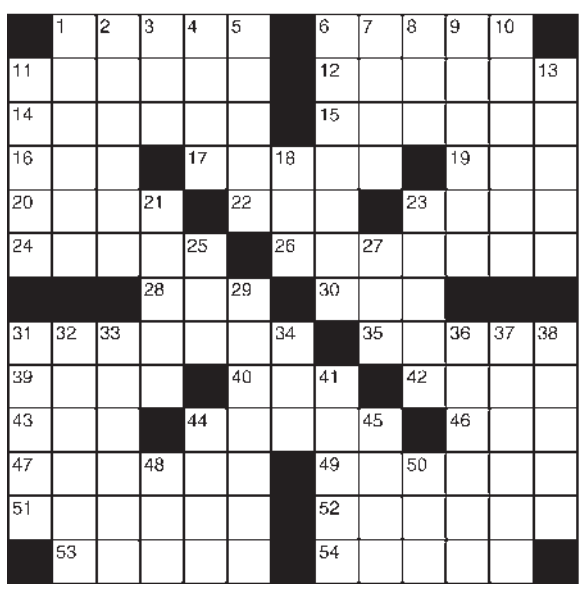
DOWN

1 Tom Hanks movie
2 Wee
3 Indivisible
4 Choir voice
5 Holyfield foe
6 Math course
7 Fat
8 Galena, e.g.
9 Novelist Waugh
10 "SNL" specialty
11 Present
13 Sen. Kefauver
18 Last letter
21 Abrasive powder
23 Long rides?
25 Always, in verse
27 Wire measure
29 "CSI" extras
31 Tremor
32 Compassion
33 Agreement
34 Triumphed
36 "Heavens to Betsy!"
37 Play a piccolo
38 Logic
41 Aquarium fish
44 On
45 Dumbfounded
48 Before
50 Swelled head

Solution time: 27 mins.

G	A	M	U	T	■	R	D	A	■	A	S	S
A	G	A	T	E	■	O	U	T	■	R	H	O
B	O	R	A	X	■	P	L	A	T	E	A	U
■	■	C	H	A	P	E	L	■	H	A	R	P
A	L	E	■	S	R	I	■	S	I	L	K	Y
P	E	A	S	■	I	N	T	E	R	■	■	■
R	O	U	T	E	S	■	H	E	S	T	O	N
■	■	■	R	A	M	B	O	■	T	H	E	E
S	U	P	E	R	■	E	N	D	■	O	R	T
I	S	L	E	■	J	A	G	U	A	R	■	■
C	H	A	P	E	A	U	■	C	L	E	A	N
K	E	N	■	L	I	T	■	A	B	A	S	E
O	R	E	■	F	L	Y	■	T	A	U	P	E

Yesterday's answer 2-26



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99c per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Keira Knightley, 26; Kenny Chesney, 43; Martin Short, 61; Diana Ross, 67

Happy Birthday: Make the most of what you have to work with this year. Expect your world to be turned upside down, so prepare to shake any negativity. Now is the time for positive reinforcement. Do not look back when everything is ahead of you. Move forward without fear. You are on a roll. Your numbers are 7, 12, 23, 29, 32, 37, 41

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Keep a sharp eye on what you want to achieve and don't let any personal concerns stand in your way. Emotions will be difficult to deal with. Focus on what's important and you will succeed. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You will feel good about the path you've chosen as long as it reinforces your core beliefs. Don't let others disillusion you. Travel for knowledge rather than pleasure and you will discover an opportunity that allows you to grow intellectually. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Temptation to overspend and overreact will lead to personal and financial loss. Focus on what you can do on your own. Once you prove that you are capable, you'll be surprised how much help and favors are offered. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Moodiness will work against you. Try to overcome any feelings of melancholy. Being a good sport and fun to be with will work to your benefit, especially when dealing with someone you love. Physical activity will help ease stress. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't trust anyone with your secrets. A pushy attitude will not get you very far at work or with friends. Someone's uncertainty will be your cue to make a strategic move that enables you to be a hero. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't overspend trying to impress someone. Getting involved in activities that allow you to show off your talent will impress someone who can help you. Consider offering a specialized service to make extra cash. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Tread very carefully when dealing with family issues. More responsibility or an additional burden can be expected. Don't take on more than you can handle or you will face a sudden reversal of fortune regarding your career and an important partnership. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Rely on what you already know. Trying to take on the impossible will end in loss. Back away from anyone promising you the impossible. Rethink your game plan and you will come up with a solution that works for you. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You have nothing to be upset about, so don't make waves or start arguments. Sit back and enjoy family and friends. A larger living space or putting what you already have to better use will lead to an enterprising endeavor. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You have to come to terms with the way things are if you are going to turn things around. Don't let what others do influence your decision. Emotions will be difficult to control if you don't face facts and resolve pending problems. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): The help you offer others is fine but don't go into debt doing so. Use your charm and inventive mind and you will come up with a profitable plan. An old friend will offer insight that will help you make the right decision. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Consider what you have to offer and put together a plan that will enable you to use your skills and talents to get ahead. You are overdue for a change—mentally, physically and emotionally. Reinvent an old concept to fit a new lifestyle. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are aggressive and unafraid to stand alone or lead the pack. You are curious and inventive.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	7	9				1	2	
4				1				6
3								9
			7		2			
	2						8	
			5		4			
1								7
9				3				1
	5	4				6	9	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 3/26

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

4	3	8	7	1	6	5	2	9
7	5	6	9	2	4	1	8	3
2	1	9	3	5	8	7	4	6
9	4	7	6	8	2	3	5	1
5	8	1	4	3	7	6	9	2
3	6	2	5	9	1	4	7	8
6	2	4	1	7	9	8	3	5
8	7	3	2	6	5	9	1	4
1	9	5	8	4	3	2	6	7

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 3/22

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

JACK LALANNE (1914-2011) **Solution: 7 letters**

E	S	D	O	O	F	K	N	U	J	Ⓑ	Ⓞ	Ⓞ	Ⓚ	D
L	R	U	R	W	E	C	N	A	R	U	D	N	E	L
A	A	U	G	E	S	W	O	H	S	I	I	T	R	L
I	N	N	T	A	A	A	P	S	E	O	C	C	E	U
N	A	U	O	C	R	M	E	T	R	I	E	K	E	P
E	T	O	T	I	E	N	S	N	D	C	P	X	N	R
T	O	S	O	R	T	L	I	D	I	R	E	A	O	E
A	M	T	O	I	I	A	A	O	O	R	U	Y	I	V
L	Y	U	F	V	T	T	V	D	C	D	D	G	P	E
U	L	D	E	N	O	I	I	I	I	U	V	N	O	N
M	L	I	U	T	D	G	S	O	T	E	D	I	W	T
R	U	O	A	E	I	E	U	S	N	O	S	G	E	I
O	F	L	O	O	S	D	R	A	W	A	M	N	R	O
F	T	S	U	I	T	S	N	O	I	L	L	I	M	N
D	E	S	I	G	N	E	D	N	O	I	S	S	I	M

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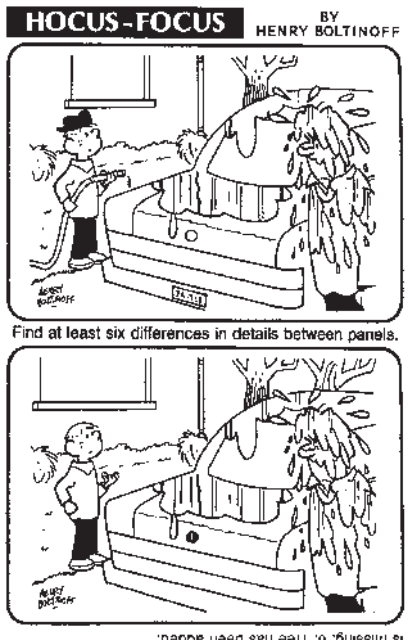
Yesterday's Answer: Fortuna

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

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Differences: 1. License plate is missing. 2. Trunk lock is black. 3. Boy's hat is gone. 4. Window is wider. 5. Hose is missing. 6. Tree has been added.

Wishing Well®

2	8	4	3	2	7	5	2	3	5	6	8	2
C	R	F	E	O	B	A	N	V	B	L	E	T
4	2	7	6	5	2	6	8	6	8	6	8	5
O	R	E	O	U	O	V	S	E	P	E	E	N
8	6	2	3	6	8	5	3	8	5	4	5	3
C	N	L	E	D	T	D	N	O	A	G	N	T
8	2	8	3	7	8	5	4	2	8	5	7	3
T	I	H	U	T	E	T	W	M	R	W	I	A
6	5	2	7	5	8	6	2	8	6	3	2	5
U	E	P	D	A	S	R	U	N	E	L	L	L
2	3	5	3	6	3	2	4	5	8	2	8	4
S	S	T	U	S	C	E	I	H	E	S	E	L
3	4	8	7	3	4	3	4	8	4	3	4	4
C	L	D	Y	E	C	S	L	S	E	S	A	R

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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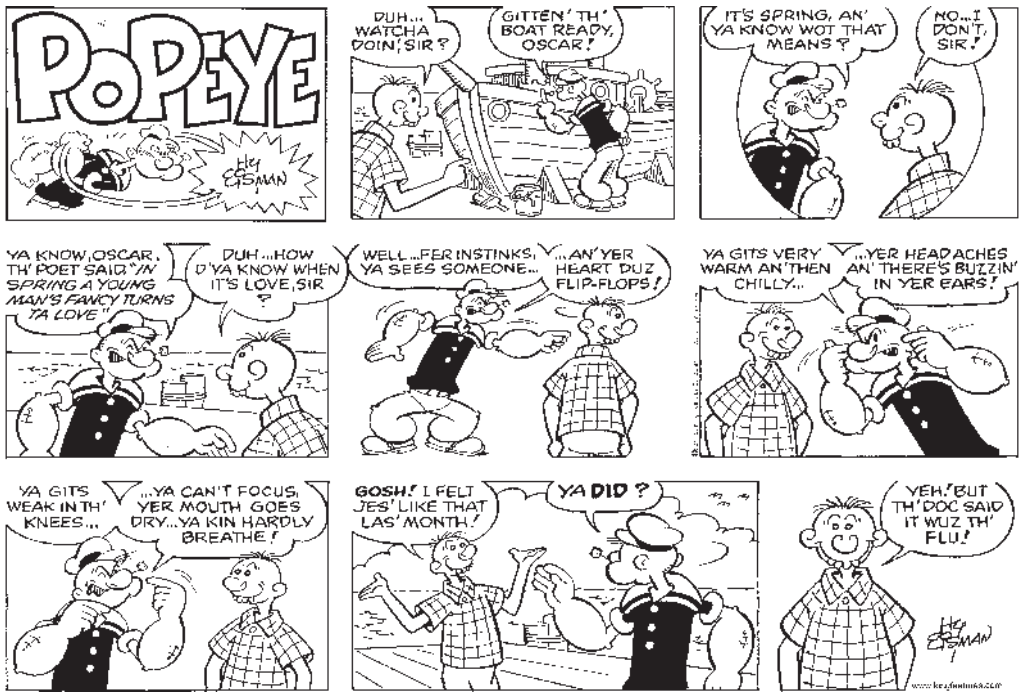
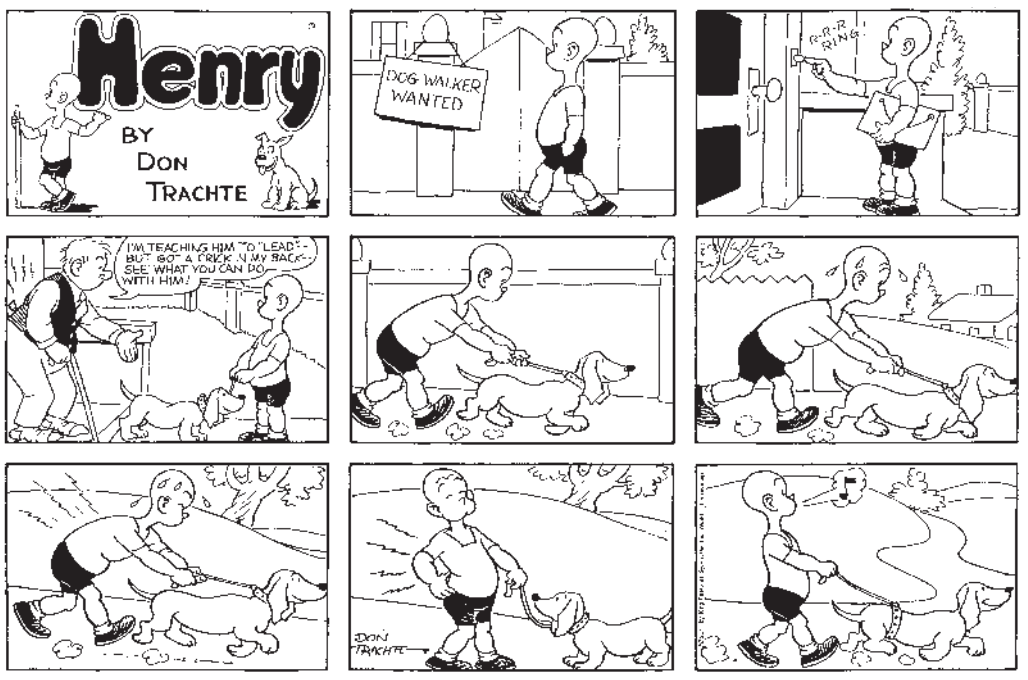

POPEYE
Hey SEGAR
DUH... WATCHA DOIN', SIR?
GITTEN' TH' BOAT READY, OSCAR!
IT'S SPRING, AN' YA KNOW WOT THAT MEANS?
NO... I DON'T, SIR!
YA KNOW, OSCAR, TH' POET SAID "IN SPRING A YOUNG MAN'S FANCY TURNS TA LOVE"
DUH... HOW D'YA KNOW WHEN IT'S LOVE, SIR?
WELL... FER INSTINKS, YA SEES SOMEONE...
...AN' YER HEART DUZ FLIP-FLOPS!
YA GITS VERY WARM AN' THEN CHILLY...
...YER HEADACHES AN' THERE'S BUZZIN' IN YER EARS!
YA GITS WEAK IN TH' KNEES...
...YA CAN'T FOCUS, YER MOUTH GOES DRY... YA KIN HARDLY BREATHE!
GOSH! I FELT JES' LIKE THAT LAS' MONTH!
YA DID?
YEH, BUT TH' DOC SAID IT WUZ TH' FLU!

They'll Do It Every Time — by Al Scaduto

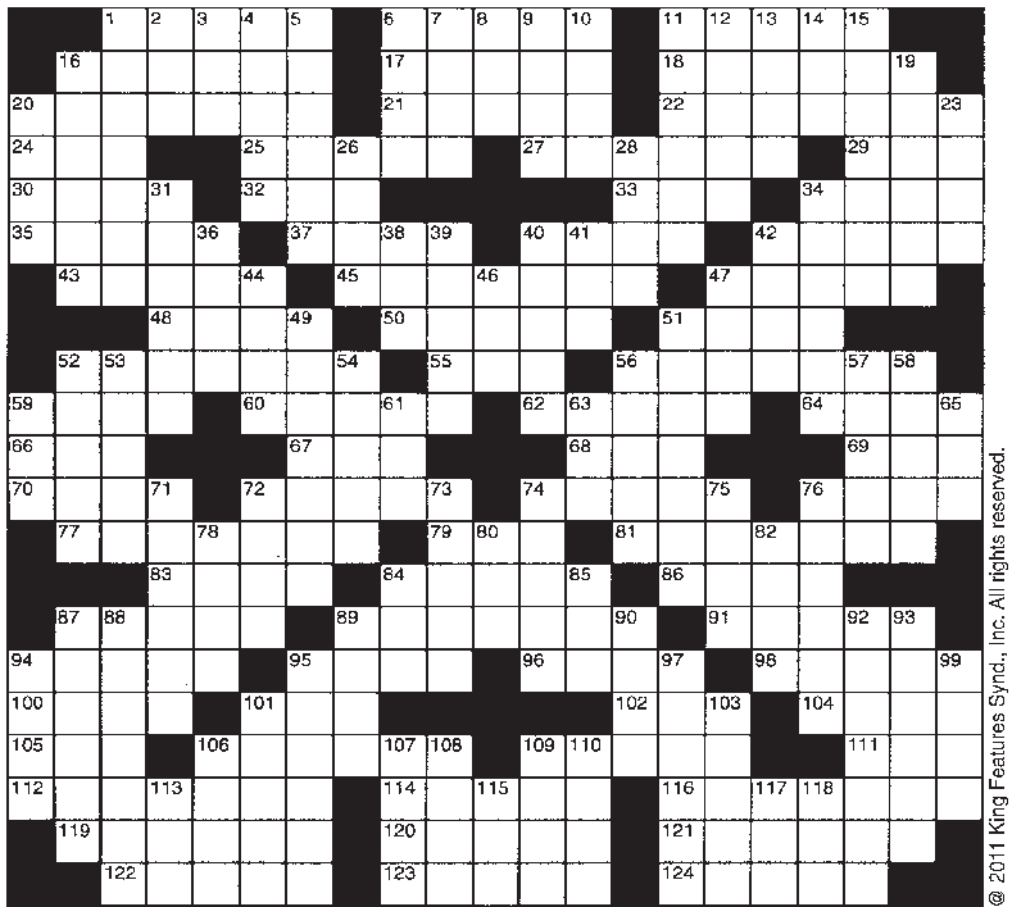
STUPID QUESTIONS #1,753—
HEY, FUNGUS-- YA GOING FISHING?
NO, I ALWAYS DRESS LIKE THIS WHEN I GO OUT TO EAT IN A SEAFOOD RESTAURANT...
Thanx to S. SHECHTER, PEMBROKE PINES, FLA.
DON'T ASK DEPT.- BIRTHDAY GIFT DIV.
AND WHAT DO YOU SAY WHEN AUNT ROTUNDA GIVES US A NICE BIRTHDAY PRESENT?
ITCHY WOOLEN PAJAMAS
Thanx to M. BREITER, DALLAS, TEXAS
ART UPDATE— THE GALLERY WAS MOBBED FOR A PRIVATE SHOWING OF ARTIST PABLO PISTACHIO'S PAINTINGS-- THEN- IT'S OPEN TO THE PUBLIC and WHERE IS EVERYBODY... and HOW ARE THE SALES?
NO SALE
MEET THE ARTIST
Thanx to E. HENNIFELD, NEW YORK, N.Y.


Henry
BY DON TRACHTE
DOG WALKER WANTED
R-R-R RING
I'M TEACHING HIM TO "LEAD"- BUT GOT A TRICK IN MY BACK- SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH HIM!
DON TRACHTE

Super Crossword — TRIPLETS

ACROSS
1 Press
6 Press
11 Press
16 Ramis or Robbins
17 Immature insect
18 — -than-thou
20 Dressed down
21 Stage backdrop
22 Displayed
24 TV's "The — Patrol"
25 Rock's — & the Juniors
27 Triangular sail
29 — later date
30 Gung-ho
32 Cassowary kin
33 Muff
34 Starting at
35 Salami city
37 Bouillabaisse or burgoo
40 "An apple — - - -"
42 Deck type
43 Reel
45 Reel
47 Reel
48 Choir member
50 "Don't Be —" ('56 hit)
51 Have in mind
52 Sound
55 Sound
56 Sound
59 Nobelist Wiesel
60 Dundee denizens
62 TV's "— Incredible!"
64 Trickle
66 Sticky stuff
67 Tint
68 Broad st.
69 Fairy queen
70 Creative work
72 Terra —
74 "What — boy am I!"
76 Lowdown singer?
77 Pop
79 Pop
81 Pop
83 Charged atoms
84 Musical movement
86 Sheep's shaker
87 Bar
89 Bar
91 Bar
94 Move swiftly
95 Hammer part
96 Campus grp.
98 Chou —
100 Artist Benjamin
101 Pres. candidate of 1952
102 Wee one
104 TV's "The — Show"
105 Parker of football
106 Vintner Gallo
109 — blade
111 Compass pt.
112 "Vostok I" passenger
114 Nest and burrow
116 Lamb, e.g.
119 Indian Zoroastrian
120 Boxer Griffith
121 Perfect examples
122 Bear
123 Bear
124 Bear

DOWN
1 Arroyo or Hingis
2 History division
3 Speck
4 — France
5 Cartoonist Charles
6 Panache
7 Cole or Coleman
8 Weimaraner's warning
9 Ellipse
10 Out-of-this-world org.
11 Joyful
12 Fido's friend
13 Golfer Dutra
14 Place before place
15 Yvonne of "The Munsters"
16 Flung
19 Update a factory
20 Improve oneself, in a way
23 Clammy
26 Tavern staples
28 Glum drop?
31 Contribute
34 Covers
36 Bill of Rights grp.
38 Catchall abbr.
39 City districts
40 "Secret — Man" ('66 song)
41 Singer Shannon
42 Autumn birthstone
44 Greek vowels
46 Computer abbr.
47 Vast quantities
49 Nero Wolfe's hobby
51 Apportion
52 Take the honey and run
53 — City, IA
54 "— Sixteen" ('60 song)
56 Destruction
57 Tarzan, for one
58 It makes rye high
59 Freud topic
61 Pro — (for now)
63 Crone
65 "Nova" network
71 Tap
72 Baptism site
73 Descending, to Donne
74 Calculating reptile?
75 Olive —
76 Fit in
78 Plunder
80 "Ask — Girl" ('59 film)
82 Annoy
84 Actress Charlotte
85 Granada gold
87 North Pole sight
88 Bouquet
89 — majesty
90 Footfall
92 "— Watched Trains" ('66 film)
93 Kirstie Alley's birthplace
94 Kind of curtain
95 Wrote
97 Priest or rabbi
99 "— Weak" ('88 hit)
101 Shakespearean sprite
103 Singer Payne
106 Celtic
107 New York stadium
108 Pyramid, for one
109 Put the metal to the metal
110 "Understood!"
113 Onassis' nickname
115 1002, to Tiberius
117 Augsburg article
118 Calendar abbr.



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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. GEOGRAPHY: What is an older name for the country of Ethiopia?
2. BUSINESS: Who founded a company called De Beers Consolidated Mines?
3. HISTORY: For what crimes was Socrates executed?
4. LITERATURE: What did Madame Bovary's husband do for a living?
5. ANATOMY: Where are the conjunctiva located in the human body?
6. GOVERNMENT: Which of the original 13 colonies did not attend the Constitutional Convention of 1787?
7. SCIENCE: What common alloy is made up entirely of copper and zinc?
8. FAMOUS QUOTATIONS: To which U.S. president is the following quote often attributed: "Better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak out and remove all doubt"?
9. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Who coined the term "muckrakers" for crusading journalists and other writers?
10. POETRY: How old was the Romantic poet John Keats when he died?

Answers
1. Abyssinia
2. Cecil Rhodes
3. Corrupting the youth and impiety
4. Doctor
5. Eyes
6. Rhode Island
7. Brass
8. Abraham Lincoln
9. Theodore Roosevelt
10. 25

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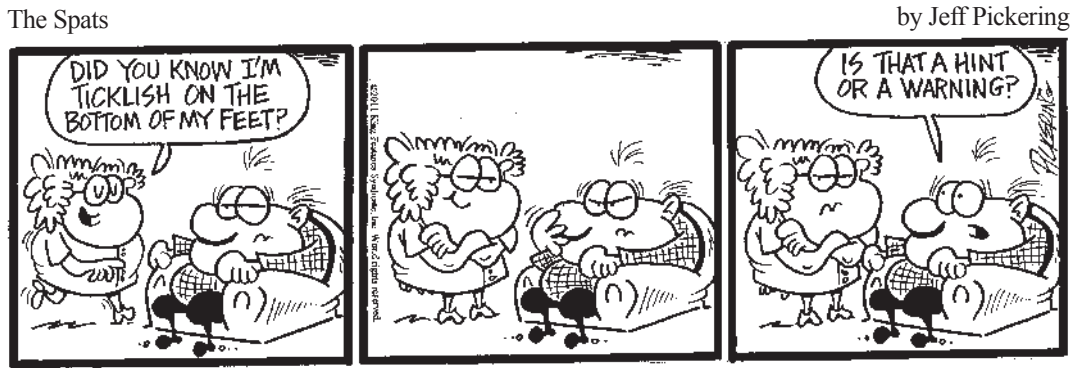
Saturday's Answers

The Spats — by Jeff Pickering



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• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

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- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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Find today's solution in this section

Arizona upsets defending champion Duke

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Derrick Williams carried Arizona in the first half, keeping the Wildcats in the game against Duke. His teammates returned the favor in the final 20 minutes with an offensive barrage that stunned the defending national champions.

Williams scored 25 of his career-high 32 points in the first half of Arizona's 93-77 victory Thursday night, helping the Wildcats reach the final eight for the first time since 2005.

"As a team, we came together and willed ourselves to win," said Lamont Jones, who added 16 points. "Derrick is a great player, but we all contribute."

The top-seeded Blue Devils (32-5) were sent packing from a regional semifinal for the second time in three years. Coach Mike Krzyzewski, with 900 wins, will have to wait until next season to resume his pursuit of Bob Knight's record as the winningest men's coach in Division I history.

"The tournament is cruel," Krzyzewski said. "It's an abrupt end for everybody when you don't win."

Solomon Hill added 13 points for the Wildcats, who shot 54 percent and made 9 of 15 3-pointers, including five by Williams.

Williams had 13 rebounds to help his team dominate the boards, 40-27, while playing 15 minutes from his hometown of La Mirada.

"It makes me feel great," he said. "If we win this game on Saturday, we'll be known as one of the greatest Arizona teams to play."

Fifth-seeded Arizona (30-7) will play Connecticut (29-9) on Saturday in the West Regional final. The third-seeded Huskies defeated No. 2 San Diego State 74-67 in the other semifinal.

"A lot of people counted us out," Jones said. "We kept on beating on the door, beating on the door until we were in."

Duke's Kryie Irving scored 28 points in his most minutes since returning at the start of the NCAA tournament after missing 26 games with a toe injury.

"After we lost the lead, I think everyone got a little rattled," he said. "We tried to settle down, but by then it was too late."

Kyle Singler added 18 as one of three Blue Devils in second-half foul trouble. Nolan Smith was held to eight points—well under the senior's 21-point average.

AP

Arizona's Derrick Williams (23) grabs a rebound in front of Duke's Kyle Singler and Ryan Kelly (34) during the first half of a West regional semifinal game in the NCAA college basketball tournament, Thursday, March 24, 2011, in Anaheim, Calif.

"The way they played in the second half, they should win it all," Smith said. "Williams is a monster. They hit us full force, and kept hitting. They did everything right, and we did a ton of things wrong."

Down by six points early in the second half, the Wildcats unleashed a scoring rampage that left the Blue Devils wondering what happened.

Williams scored just two points during the 19-2 run that seemingly came out of nowhere, while five of his teammates did the rest, hitting from long range, driving to the basket and scoring off a fast break.

"They just got on a real roll. When you get on a roll, you have more energy than the other guy," Krzyzewski said. "We had no stop for them, and you kind of get overwhelmed there for a little bit. They knocked us back and got that double-digit lead."

Jones' basket tied the game at 53 and the spurt ended with Arizona leading 66-55, its first double-digit lead of the game. Jones and Jamelle Horne had five points each, while Williams focused on rebounding.

"The second half was just complete nastiness, as coach would say," Kevin Parrom said. "We came out swinging. We didn't let up. We knew they were just going to focus on Derrick and that's when other guys came in and stepped up. It shows that it's not just Derrick Williams who is on this team."

Horne's dunk extended Arizona's lead to 77-63 as the Wildcats' fans roared, thrilled to see their team making a deep run in the tournament a season after the school's 25-year streak of consecutive appearances ended.

The Wildcats closed the first half on an 18-13 run, capped by Williams' 3-pointer just before the buzzer, that left them trailing 44-38. He hit back-to-back shots from the same spot at the top of the 3-point line during the spurt in which his teammates contributed just five points.

The Wildcats closed within one point earlier in the half, and Duke responded by outscoring them 14-7, including eight in a row, to take its largest lead, 31-20.

Irving didn't start the game, but he quickly had an impact once he got in. He scored seven points in the run that built Duke's biggest lead.

Irving came in as one of the nation's most touted freshmen, and he scored double figures in all 11 games he played in his abbreviated season. He has yet to decide if he'll return or enter the NBA draft.

"I could definitely see myself wearing a Duke uniform again," he said. "I don't want to take it off right now."

Butler 61, Wisconsin 54

At New Orleans, Matt Howard and Butler are starting to make this look a little bit easier.

After narrowly surviving its first two NCAA tournament games by margins of two points or less, Butler led by 20 points before holding on for a victory over Wisconsin.

Now the Bulldogs are a win away from their second straight Final Four appearance.

Howard had 20 points and 12 rebounds, Shelvin Mack scored 13 points and Shawn Vanzant 10 for the eighth-seeded Bulldogs (26-9), who upset top-seeded Pittsburgh by one point in the second round and now have knocked off another higher seed in fourth-seeded Wisconsin.

The victory sent Butler into the Southeast regional final, where the Bulldogs meet second-seeded Florida (29-7) on Saturday for a trip to the Final Four.

Jordan Taylor scored 22 for Wisconsin (25-9), which shot 30.4 percent (17 of 56). Jon Leuer, normally one of the Badgers' top offensive forces with 18.7 points per game coming in, was 1 of 12 shooting and finished with three points.

Florida 83, BYU 74

At New Orleans, Alex Tyus is like most of these Florida Gators—good at a lot of things, but lacking one dominant skill. He's usually content to blend in and be just another part of the team's effectively anonymous style.

On the biggest stage of his career, the senior's impact was obvious.

Tyus had 19 points and 17 rebounds as Florida beat BYU 83-74 in overtime Thursday night, chasing a bloodied Jimmer Fredette and the Cougars out of the NCAA tournament.

Now the Gators will be playing for a spot in the Final Four for the first time since 2007—ascending back into the nation's elite after a hiatus from the spotlight following back-to-back national championships in 2006 and '07.

"It's been so rewarding for me to see them make the journey they've made to this point now," Florida coach Billy Donovan said. "It's been very, very rewarding and fulfilling for me, and I hope in some way I've been able to give them as much as they've given me."

While Fredette was the star attraction, scoring 32 points on 11 for 29 shooting in the final game of his college career, Florida countered with balance.

UConn 74, San Diego State 67

At Anaheim, Calif., the legend of Kemba Walker is growing bigger with each postseason feat for the Connecticut Huskies, who are on the brink of another trip to the Final Four.

Walker scored 22 of his 36 points in another dynamic second-half performance, relentlessly driving UConn down the stretch in a 74-67 victory over San Diego State in the West regional semifinals Thursday night.

Freshman Jeremy Lamb added 24 points and hit a clutch 3-pointer with 1:43 left for the third-seeded Huskies (29-9), who won five games in five days to capture the Big East tournament and now are going to an NCAA regional final for the 10th time.

Walker, the fearless playmaker from the Bronx generously listed at 6-foot-1, scored 12 consecutive points for the Huskies down the stretch.

UConn advanced to Saturday's regional final against the winner of top-seeded Duke's meeting with Arizona later at Honda Center.

Bonds jurors given chemistry and biology lesson

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Barry Bonds' trial was a lot like high school chemistry and biology class Thursday.

After former Bonds business partner Steve Hoskins finished a cross-examination in which he admitted his previous statements included inconsistencies and inaccuracies, Larry Bowers of the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency took the witness stand for more than four hours of mind-numbing testimony on the whats, whys and hows of steroids, human growth hormone and changes they cause to the body.

Bonds is charged with lying when he told a grand jury in 2003 that he didn't knowingly use performance-enhancing drugs. The jury of eight women and four men was treated to an Advanced Placement class in Androgen receptors and Acromegaly, a condition in which there is too much HGH in the body.

Prosecutors allege Bonds' feet, hands and head grew due to use of HGH, and Bowers testified as an expert witness about scientific studies alleging HGH abuse causes soft tissue swelling. Defense lawyer Allen Ruby tried to make the science sound like mumbo-jumbo.

"If someone abuses human growth hormone, how much does their head grow?" Ruby said. "Does it grow twice as big?"

Many of the times Ruby asked a pointed question, Bowers answered that there were too many variables to give a single answer.

"You know the difference between theories and proof?" Ruby asked sarcastically.

Bonds, in a dark suit, light pink shirt and dark pink tie, read through a binder book at his defense table. Jurors attentively followed, but they didn't take as many notes as they did during the testimony of Hoskins on Wednesday and Thursday morning.

The trial hasn't exactly been must-see drama in the Bay Area, where Bonds set major league season (73) and career (762) records for home runs during a career than ended in 2007.

When Bowers began his afternoon testimony, just 27 of the approximately 100 seats in the court room were occupied, and eight of those were in the Bonds family row. Having experienced the uncomfortable wood bench earlier in the week, three people in that row brought pillows with them.

Only three witnesses testified during the trial's first week, and there is no session on Fridays. When the trial resumes Monday, the government intends to call IRS Special Agent Mike Wilson, Bonds' former girlfriend Kimberly Bell, former Giants head athletic trainer Stan Conte and former Bonds personal shopper Kathy Hoskins.

Bowers, USADA's chief science officer, described how the organization helped unmask the designer steroid dubbed "the clear," which turned out to be Tetrahydrogestrinone (THG). Bonds admitted taking "the clear," but told the grand jury that personal trainer Greg Anderson—who is in prison for refusing to testify—informed him it was "flaxseed oil."

Bowers also testified about side effects of steroids use, such an acne breakout and "bloating." Looking ahead to Bell's expected testimony, Assistant U.S. Attorney Jeffrey D. Nedrow asked Bowers what effect steroid abuse could have on testicles.

"They would shrink," Bowers said.

Ruby confronted Bowers with the claim that any of the theories he espoused were "just speculation."

Out of the presence of the jury, U.S. District Judge Susan Illston denied Ruby's motion to exclude evidence on Acromegaly. Ruby claimed there was insufficient scientific evidence to allow the evidence.

Hoskins, his answers halting at times when he was confronted with inconsistencies, testified Wednesday that he suspected Bonds was using steroids from 1999-03, the year he was fired as Bonds' business partner. Hoskins also testified that Bonds' shoe and hat size grew—he had been in charge of ordering Bonds' spikes and keeping his uniforms in order.

During cross-examination Thursday, Hoskins admitted that he paid about $10,000 in legal fees for Bell, which she repaid after she sold her house. He also couldn't recall precisely the allegations his sister made against Bonds that he passed on to federal investigators.

At one point under questioning from Ruby, Hoskins appeared to get confused over which of Bonds' Bentleys they were talking about.

"He had so many cars, I don't remember," Hoskins said.

AP

New Orleans Hornets' Emeka Okafor, left, and Aaron Gray react after Okafor hit a shot that sent the NBA basketball game into overtime on Thursday, March 24, 2011, in Salt Lake City.

Okafor, Paul lead Hornets past Jazz

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Emeka Okafor banked in a 20-footer at the regulation buzzer to force overtime, and reserve Aaron Gray scored six points in the extra period to lead the New Orleans Hornets to a 121-117 victory over the short-handed Utah Jazz on Thursday night.

David West scored 29 points for the Hornets before being taken off in a wheelchair holding his head and grimacing in pain after going down hard after a dunk that tied the game at 103. The team said West sustained a left knee injury and that X-rays were negative. An MRI is planned.

Paul Millsap hit two free throws to put the Jazz ahead 105-103 with 1.3 seconds to go, but Okafor, who had subbed back in when West was injured, managed to get off the game-tying shot.

Millsap had 33 points to lead the Jazz, who have dropped four straight.

Chris Paul scored five of his 24 points in overtime for the Hornets, and Trevor Ariza added 14, including a 3-pointer in the extra period.

While the Jazz were coming off an 0-3 road trip, the Hornets hadn't played since Saturday, and coach Monty Williams used the time to hold some closed-door practices.

"We tried to create a bunker mentality, playoff mentality," Williams said of the practice sessions. "Some things were said in practices that I didn't want anybody else to hear. That's just the way it's got to be for us."

The Hornets were coming off an 89-85 loss to Boston, playing what Williams called the most undisciplined second half they've had all year.

"Guys watched the film, took it to heart," Williams said. "We had some spirited practices this past week. It was definitely what we needed."

The Hornets were starting a three-game Western trip just a 1/2-game ahead of eighth-place Memphis in the Western Conference playoff race. They also face Phoenix and the Los Angeles Lakers on the trip.

"It's really huge for us to get off to a good start," Williams said.

Williams knows there are doubters after the Hornets finished 37-45 last season and missed the playoffs for the first time in three years.

"I'm sure (the players) are hearing all the stuff people are saying and writing about our team," said Williams, in his first season as coach. "The best thing is we control our destiny. We have no one to blame but ourselves."

The Jazz entered Thursday four games behind eighth-place Memphis with 10 to go. In mid-January, they were as many as 14 games over .500.

Despite being without starters Andrei Kirilenko and Devin Harris, they continued to play spirited ball.

They trailed by five after Jarrett Jack's 3-pointer with 8:47 remaining but fought back, with Earl Watson sinking a pair of 3-pointers to tie it at 89, then Millsap converted a three-point play for a 92-91 Jazz lead with 5:24 left.

The Hornets surged ahead 98-92 on Paul's running jumper, but the Jazz came back again.

NBA BRIEFS

Rambis: 'Outside chance' Love's season may be over

DALLAS (AP)—Minnesota Timberwolves coach Kurt Rambis says there's a chance that All-Star forward Kevin Love could miss the rest of the season because of a strained left groin. Love sat out Thursday night's game against Dallas after he was hurt in a 127-95 home loss to Sacramento on Sunday. The Timberwolves have 10 games left after playing the Mavericks. "There is an outside chance, I don't know how great that chance is," Rambis said. "Obviously, with hamstring or groin injuries, you want to be cautious with them because they can linger for a long period of time, and we don't want that to happen with Kevin." Anthony Randolph started in Love's place against the Mavericks. Love, averaging 20.3 points and an NBA-high 15.4 rebounds per game, did not travel with the team while he receives treatment.

No hamstring tear for Bobcats top scorer Jackson

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Charlotte Bobcats top scorer Stephen Jackson will be listed as day to day after an MRI revealed no tear in his left hamstring. Jackson underwent tests Thursday, a day after failing to record a field goal after the first quarter in a loss to the Indiana Pacers while hobbled by the injury. Jackson has missed four games over the past month while being slowed by the strained hamstring. He aggravated the injury in shootaround Wednesday before Charlotte's loss left the Bobcats three games behind the Pacers for the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference. Forward Tyrus Thomas is also day to day after bruising ribs in the loss to Indiana. The Bobcats visit Boston on Friday.

Mavericks 104, Timberwolves 96

In Dallas, the hosts rallied for a win over Minnesota that made it 11 straight seasons of at least 50 wins for the Mavericks.

Dirk Nowitzki had 30 points and 11 rebounds and Jason Terry added 18 points for Dallas.

Anthony Randolph had a career-high 31 points with 11 rebounds for the Timberwolves, who've lost their past five games and are without injured All-Star forward Kevin Love. Randolph made his first start of the season in place of Love. Randolph, acquired from the Knicks a month ago, had a 23-point first half, 17 in the second quarter.

Levin flawless in the wind to lead Bay Hill

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Spencer Levin is atop the leaderboard after the opening round for the third time this year, so that's nothing new. It was his score Thursday afternoon at Bay Hill that surprised him and everyone else.

In warm, blustery conditions on a course that allowed only three rounds in the 60s and the most rounds in the 80s in nearly two decades, Levin had a 6-under 66 and a three-shot lead over Rickie Fowler and Hunter Mahan in the Arnold Palmer Invitational.

Tiger Woods and his power group of Dustin Johnson and Gary Woodland provided the entertainment everyone expected, although not this variety. Woodland hit a tee shot onto another golf course, Johnson wound up 80 yards over a green and onto the next tee, and Woods' angrily tossed his wedge after his best shot of the day.

Their scores weren't impressive.

Woods missed a 10-foot par putt on the last hole for a 73, his highest opening round since 1999 at Bay Hill, where he is a six-time winner. Johnson and Woodland, coming off a win last week at Innisbrook, each shot 77.

Levin built the largest 18-hole lead of the year on the PGA Tour, but even that doesn't illustrate how well he played. His 66 was nearly nine shots better than the average score at Bay Hill, which featured gusts over 20 mph and crusty conditions in the afternoon.

Fowler and Mahan played in the morning, as did Phil Mickelson, who opened with a 70.

The tough conditions showed themselves more at the bottom of the leaderboard. U.S. Open champion Graeme McDowell had an 80, as did Bob Hope winner Jhonattan Vegas and Brandt Snedeker. Ricky Barnes shot an 82.

There were 13 rounds in the 80s, the most at Bay Hill since there were 24 in the second round in 1983.

And then there was Levin.

"Six under ... I didn't really even think about that on the range," Levin said. "Because I know the course is hard, anyway, and then you 20, 30 mile per hour wind and makes it even more tough. "I was just kind of hoping anything around par, maybe anything under par, would be a good score in the afternoon for sure."

As usual, it came down to putting.

Levin, who also had at least a share of the lead in the Honda Classic and Northern Trust Open at Riviera, holed a par putt from just off the green at No. 6 and chipped in for birdie from left of the second green. The finish kept his spirits high. From the right bunker on No. 8, he blasted out across the green and down the slope to 8 feet for par, then atoned for a mediocre bunker shot on No. 9 with a 10-foot putt.

"That was nice," Levin said. "Obviously, a lot better mood. Parred the last two when I could have bogeyed, so that was good."

There wasn't much good about the feature group.

Woods struggled with his tee shots on the front nine and didn't hit a single fairway, although he only was in big trouble once off the tee. The bigger problem was the wind, and Woods twice had to back off putts because he couldn't keep still.

"I didn't drive it well starting out, and then I golf a hold of that," Woods said. "Hit my irons well all day, and on the green, it was just tough to take the putter back straight because the wind was gusting and it was tough to get the right speed."

It looked as though he might not have to putt on the par-5 12th with a wedge that covered the flag. It hit the bottom of the pin and spun back some 25 feet. Woods dropped his club then flung it toward his bag.

Johnson and Woodland, two of the biggest hitters, each reached a par 5 in two with the wind straight into them - Woodland on the 560-yard fourth, Johnson on the 557-yard 12th.

They also hit shots rarely seen at Bay Hill.

In a left-to-right wind on the par-5 sixth, Woodland lost it to the right. It bounced off a cart path, over the fence and wound up in the water on the par-3 "Charger" course at Bay Hill, which is out of bounds. That led to a double bogey.

On the eighth, Johnson caught a flyer out of the rough and after a few bounces on the cart path, his ball finally settled 80 yards over the green and toward the front of the tee box on No. 9. Johnson was left with a blind shot over the trees and a TV tower, and it carried all the way into the water, leading to a double bogey.

Fowler set the pace in the morning and reached 5 under, helped by an eagle on the 16th. He didn't finish as well as Levin, however, dropping shots on the eighth and ninth hole to end his round at 69. It was enough to lead until Levin warmed up.

"It's nice to have fresh green the first nine holes, and the greens are still soft," said Fowler, who was in the first group of the day. "You don't have to worry about balls bouncing too much."

Mickelson didn't hit it his best, was pleased with his short game, especially on the greens. He took only 26 putts, and like Fowler, said it helped that the greens rolled true except in a crosswind.

"I was able to salvage par with my short game, and it was a good opening round," Mickelson said. "I'll certainly take it."

Levin, entering his third year on tour and still looking for his first win, now gets to try to build on his lead Friday morning when conditions should be a little more tame.

Woods feels the same way. Sure, it was his highest opening round since a 74 in 1999, but it wasn't awful compared with the field.

"I think even par to under par would have been a good score this afternoon," Woods said. "Spencer obviously played well. But most of the low scores were this morning, so I'm still right there in the ball game."

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Boston	50	20	.714	—
Philadelphia	37	34	.521	13 1/2
New York	35	36	.493	15 1/2
New Jersey	23	47	.329	27
Toronto	20	51	.282	30 1/2

Southeast Division

x-Miami	49	22	.690	—
x-Orlando	46	26	.639	3 1/2
Atlanta	40	32	.556	9 1/2
Charlotte	28	42	.400	20 1/2
Washington	17	53	.243	31 1/2

Central Division

y-Chicago	51	19	.729	—
Indiana	32	40	.444	20
Milwaukee	28	42	.400	23
Detroit	25	46	.352	26 1/2
Cleveland	13	57	.186	38

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

x-San Antonio	57	14	.803	—
x-Dallas	50	21	.704	7
New Orleans	41	31	.569	16 1/2
Memphis	40	32	.556	17 1/2
Houston	38	34	.528	19 1/2

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	46	24	.657	—
Denver	43	29	.597	4
Portland	41	30	.577	5 1/2
Utah	36	37	.493	11 1/2
Minnesota	17	55	.236	30

Pacific Division

y-L.A. Lakers	51	20	.718	—
Phoenix	36	34	.514	14 1/2
Golden State	30	42	.417	21 1/2
L.A. Clippers	28	44	.389	23 1/2
Sacramento	18	52	.257	32 1/2

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

Yesterday's Games
Dallas 104, Minnesota 96
New Orleans 121, Utah 117, OT

IT&E Voyagers, Fotten Palau lead divisions

By WALTER CEPDEA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Jonny's Bar & Grill's IT&E Voyagers and USSP Peleliu Club's Fotten Palau remain atop their respective Agingan and Obyan division standings in the Saipan Billiards Association after the conclusion of last Tuesday's matchups.

After dropping three singles matches to the Obyan's VFW Post 3457's X-Tream (11-17), IT&E Voyagers finished strong and swept both doubles matches to steal it in the end.

With a win-loss card of 21-7, IT&E Voyagers are alone in front, while sister team IT&E Incredibles of Buddies Bar & Grill, Utopia Bar's Docomo Hustlers, and Jonny's Bar & Grill's Home Boyz are all tied with identical 18-10 records.

Fotten Palau, meanwhile, still holds a loose grip on the six-team Obyan Division despite a 3-4 loss to the Home Boyz at home.

Fotten Palau has an overall a record of 15-13 with Wild Bill's Bar & Grill's Shark Attack (13-15) and X-Tream hot on their trail.

Agingan Division notables include Rolly Villanueva and Chester Hamoy running the rack two times apiece, while Mario Diola is the lone player to sink the 8-ball on the break.

Obyan notables include one-time rack runners Tero Takai, John Mongami, Chester Cuento, and Bobby Luzano.

Other matchup results last Tuesday had USSP Turtles (10-18) upsetting Shark Attack, 4-3, on the road; Hustlers chopping up the Pirates (8-20), 6-1, on the road at D'Pirates; and IT&E Incredibles shutting out D'Pirates' Best Choice (8-20), 7-0, at home.

Shooters, Yakau, Lights Out, Kamote's on top

By WALTER CEPDEA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

D'Pirates Bar & Grill's Mixed Blood Shooters, Jonny's Bar & Grill's Yakau and IT&E Kamote's, and Buddies' Bar & Grill's Lights Out are the current frontrunners of their respective divisions in the Saipan Electronic Dart Association.

Mixed Blood defeated Naked Fish Bar & Grill's Naked Fish Boyz (41-44), 11-6, at home last Monday to maintain its top position in the A Division with a 57-28 record.

Mixed Blood's Jeff "Master Vader" Barit scored a 124 High Out in the matchup, while Naked's Jack DL Guerrero scored a 160 High In.

Mixed Blood's sister teams Kanto Boyz (60-42) and Balitie Boys (46-39) are positioned in second and third place in the nine-team field.

Notably, Mixed Blood's Barit, Angelo Hernaez, and Romy Intendez are ranked first, second, and fourth in the individual statistics with Noel Unay of Oleai Beach Bar & Grill's Celebrity in the third spot.

Yakau, meanwhile, reclaimed first place in the Ladies League after downing Nasty Girls (38-52), 11-4, last Monday at Gaia Bar. Yakau's Frances Magofna scored a 154 High In in the contest.

With a 66-24 record, Yakau now holds a one-game edge over D'Pirates Aschooschoo (65-25) with Buddies' Sistah! (50-40) in third place.

Last Thursday IT&E Kamote's walked over caboose team Duruzi II (21-54) of Gaia Bar, 13-2, to improve to 51-24 in the B-Fanihi.

The team is positioned ahead of VFW Post 3457's Assashunz (45-30) and Buddies' Akirimenai Buddy! (41-34) in the eight-team division.

IT&E's Kaysie Aquino, Eric Pascual, PeeJay Naval, and Jay Nunag are ranked first, second, third, and sixth in the individual statistics.

Despite a 7-8 road loss to No Fear at Oleai, Lights Out still maintained first place in the 10-team B-Flame Tree division with a 47-28 record.

Notably No Fears' Jesse Teigita scored a 115 High In in the contest, and Lights Out's Toi and Phil Celis are ranked first and ninth place in the individual statistics.

Lights Out currently holds a three-game edge over Buddies' Wild Shooters, while No Fear and Naked Fish's Na'Gupu are in a two-way tie for third with an identical record of 41-34.

ATHLETICS
From Page 28

participating countries are not yet available at press time and will only be due on June 28 or two months before the Games kick off.

After athletics, weightlifting has the second most entries with 18. Beach volleyball, golf, and tennis are also in the compulsory list of events and each sport drew 15 countries. The Commonwealth will have entries in golf and beach volleyball. Completing the compulsory list are swimming, basketball, va'a (canoe racing), volleyball, rugby 7, table tennis, and soccer.

Fifteen optional events will be played in the Pacific Games with boxing having the most entries with 13. Judo and taekwondo each lured 11 countries. Rounding out the optional list are badminton, baseball, cricket, powerlifting, squash, surfing, archery, shooting, triathlon, and sailing.

With the numerical entries by sports now in, more than 3,000 athletes are expected in New Caledonia. Joining them are around 2,000 officials and other delegates from 22 PGA members.

JETS
From Page 28

them ahead, 11-3.

Red Sox managed a run in the sixth off an error and almost mounted a comeback in its final stand, but it was spoiled after three runs scored with one out.

Winning pitcher Jason Villagomez allowed a pair of earned runs off two hits and four walks with five strikeouts in four innings. Kalen batted 2-for-3 with three runs, a base on ball, and a stolen base.

Falcons 12, Red Sox 7

Red Sox struck first in the opening frame with two runs off a pair of doubles by Alex Mongkeya and Jonathan Cabrera, but the Falcons fired back to take a 4-2 lead in the bottom of the inning.

The first run came home off an error and an out, a walk, and another error later, Barry Sunumai belted an RBI base hit and reloaded the bases; the other two runs came off free passes with ducks on the pond.

Falcons pitcher Franie Lieto struck out the side in the top of the second, but after his team came up empty in the bottom frame, the Red Sox managed a run off an error at the start of the third.

The Falcons then went ahead 6-3 in the bottom frame off an error and a wild pitch.

After a quiet fourth, the Red Sox pulled within a run, 5-6, in the top of the fifth off an RBI single by Mongkeya, who scored later off an error, but the Falcons broke out to a 12-5 lead in the bottom frame off a wild pitch and a whole lot of errors; Falcons did not record a hit in the frame.

The Red Sox managed a run in both the sixth and seventh innings, but the Falcons held on strong for the win.

Lieto allowed two earned runs off five hits and two walks with nine strikeouts in the win.

The Falcons scored all its runs off just two hits, only two of which were earned.

IT&E Fielders 12, Jets 10

The Jets broke the ice with a run off an error in the opening frame, but the IT&E Fielders got it back in the bottom of the second inning when Gayvan Uchau drew a one-out walk and later stole home.

The Jets then took a brief 4-1 lead in the top of the third off a balk, an RBI knock by Francisco Palacios, and an RBI double by Kyle Hocog, but IT&E answered and took the lead, 5-4, in the bottom half.

Ian Rogolifoi sparked the rally with a lead-off solo homerun over the right-centerfield fence. He is the first junior leaguer to mail one out this season. Khobby Kaipat then smashed an RBI single before another run came in off an error. IT&E went on to load the bases and scored the last run off a walk.

The Jets tied the game off an RBI double by Jonathan Villagomez in the top of the fourth, but IT&E jumped ahead, 9-5, in the bottom frame off errors and wild pitches.

The Jets then came back and reclaimed the lead 10-9 in the top of the fifth inning. That quickly loaded the bases and scored the first run off a walk. K.J. Kalen and Villagomez then belted RBI singles and the other runs scored off errors.

IT&E bit back and pulled ahead, 11-10, in the bottom frame when Rogolifoi drove in Kai Wanket before stealing home shortly after.

The Jets went 1-2-3 in its last two chances, while IT&E added a run in the bottom of the sixth inning.

IT&E's Rogolifoi batted 2-for-3 with a homerun, an RBI, a base on balls, and a stolen base.

Little League action continues tonight at "Tan Ko" Field with Senior League play between the Jets and the Rep. Rafael Demapan Heats at 6pm.

27 COMPLETE
From Page 28

ing the awards ceremony for the 2011 Tagaman Triathlon at the Pacific Islands Club. The Top 3 finishers in each age group received medals.

Taga Kids, which came after Tagaman concluded, started with a 100m swim sprint in the waters off Micro Beach for the 6 to 8 age group and 200m for 9-and-above. Then in the bike course, the 6 to 8 age group headed to the flag circle and back to the transition area for the run split, which brought runners near the bell tower and back. In the 9 to 12 division, bikers went to as far as the Army Reserve, while the oldest age group had to pass Charley Dock entrance before heading back to AMP for the run leg.

Suzuki was the first overall finisher of the shortest course to top the boys' 6 to 8 age group. He timed in at two minutes, 16.69 seconds in the swim split, 10:16 in the bike race, and 5:17.34 in the run leg for a total time of 17:50.03. Rounding out the Top 3 were Ichiro Borja (18:42.75) and Akira Kadokura (19:57.86).

Other finishers were Blake Mister (20:08.05), Rinto Takahashi (20:13.61), Take Borja (20:38.67), Taiga Sato (21:09.08), Miku Torres (21:20.29), Michail Villagomez (22:39.03), Rintaro Miyawaki (23:04.09), Kaito Nishimura (24:26.19), Jinnosuke Suzuki (24:31.85), Taiyo Akimaru (24:59.33), Conall Hartig (29:37.73), and Leo Takahashi (31:33.73).

In the girls' 6 to 8 age group, Kaga had the best time at 22:17.85. She clocked in at 2:57.66 in the swim race, 13:52:00 in the bike split, and 5:28.19 in the run portion to prevail over Ellie Epley (25:06.12), Courne Kaga (25:14.41), and Maaya Sato (26:33.96).

In the boys' 9 to 16, Logan Mister submitted 30:22.90 to win against Cole Chambers (33:32.01), Steven Goodwin (37:51.99), and Michael Villagomez (41:16.12). Logan Mister tallied 3:45.47 in the swim split, 15:57 in the bike race, and 10:40.33 in the run leg.

Race took the top honors in the girls 9 to 12 after completing the longer race in 31:41.61. The Whispering Palms student defeated siblings Victoria and Paige Edwards Van Muijen, who timed in at 40:10.95 and 41:39.63, respectively.

In the longest race of the afternoon, Castro finished at the 42:33.15 mark to win the boys 13 to 15 age group. He completed the swim split in 5:32:48, the bike leg in 18:23:00, and the run leg in 18:37.67.

SAIPAN
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round by a step, as it finished fifth in Pool A with a 2-4 record. Only the Top 4 teams made it to the playoffs. The 670 Hoopaholics and Rollers Basketball Club U20 Team ended their pool play without a win.

The Nationals will face the Hoopaholics at 9am at the Coral Reef Fitness and Sports Complex in Andersen Air Force Base with the winner advancing to the 1pm match. The Rollers will also see action in the consolation round to fight for a slot in the final consolation game at 3pm.

Between the Hoopaholics and the Rollers, the former had the better chance of breaking into the win column in the pool play. The Hoopaholics squared off against Guam's MVP Stars in their last game in Pool B on Wednesday and lost by only a deuce, 60-62.

According to James Lee, they had the opportunity to either tie the game or win it outright with a triple, as the Hoopaholics had possession in the last 10 seconds of the match. After the inbound, Dave Sablan received the ball and went up for a triple. He missed, but Lee was there for the offensive board and a putback attempt, but the latter muffed his shot too. The ball then went out of bounce with 0.4 of a second left and the Hoops awarded the possession, anew, but the time was not enough for the visitors to put up a decent shot.

"It was a heartbreaker. However, we're still happy wit the way we played against the MVP Stars, who defeated the Guam National Team by double digits," Lee said.

Fourteen teams joined the men's division of the "March Madness" and four in the women's category.

Area-1 Korea All-Stars took the No. 1 seeding in Pool A with its perfect 5-0 record. They will face Pool B No. 4 team Joint Region Marianas at the start of the double-elimination playoffs today. MVP Stars and Korea's Defenders battled for the top seed in Pool B. In the women's division, the Guam National Team claimed the No. 1 seeding after beating host Andersen Bombers.

Arizona upsets defending champion Duke

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Okafor, Paul lead Hornets past Jazz

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Athletics draws most entries

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Yvonne Bennett is seen here racing for the CNMI in the 100m run in the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau. The Commonwealth is among 20 nations joining the athletics competition in the 2011 Pacific Games in New Caledonia.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The athletics competition in the 2011 Pacific Games in New Caledonia lured the most entries with 20 countries confirming participation in the medal-rich event.

According to the Pacific Games Council website, 21 of the 22 Pacific Games Association-member nations met the deadline for the submission of numerical entries to the quadrennial competition that will run from Aug. 27 to Sept. 10.

Of the 21 PGAs, 20 countries, including the CNMI, will be sending participants to the athletics event. In the 2007 Pacific Games in Apia, Samoa, the Commonwealth also competed in athletics with Tyrone Omar and Dexter Dillay representing the CNMI. Omar competed in the 100m race and was the first CNMI sprinter to make it to the semifinals after a record time of 10.99 seconds. Dillay joined the javelin throw and long jump events.

Athletics is one of the 12 compulsory sports in the calendar of events for this year's Pacific Games. The competition will take place at the Stade Numa Daly in Noumea from Sept. 3 to 10. Twenty-four events in the men's division and 25 in the women's are scheduled in athletics. Names of entries of

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

From left, 2011 Taga Kids winners Gabrielle Race, Logan Mister, Steven Goodwin, and Cole Chambers pose with their medals during the awards ceremony at the Pacific Islands Club last Saturday.

27 complete Taga Kids

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Taga Kids capped the 2011 Saipan Sportsfest with 27 completing the afternoon race at the American Memorial Park compound last Saturday.

Lennosuke Suzuki, Conatsu Kaga, Logan Mister, Gabrielle Race, and Erico Castro emerged as top finishers in their respective divisions and were recognized dur-

See 27 COMPLETE on Page 27

Jets split assignments; Fielders, Falcons win

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Saipan Shipping-Pacific Amusement Jets beat the Bank of Saipan Red Sox, 11-7, as the Junior Division of the Saipan Little League was played on Covenant Day last Thursday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

On Sunday, IT&E Fielders downed the Jets, 12-10, and the Natibu Falcons defeated the Red Sox, 12-7.

Jets 11, Red Sox 7

The Jets struck first in the bottom of the opening frame off an RBI knock by Ray Saralu.

Jets pitcher Jason Villagomez then struck out the side in the top of the second and his team added a run in the bottom frame off errors.

Red Sox finally hit the board of an RBI base rip by Jerald Cabrera to start the third, but the Jets went ahead, 6-1, in the bottom frame off a couple of errors and RBI singles by Palacios, Luwan Reyes, and Jason Villagomez.

Red Sox came up empty in the top of the fourth and the Jets' top of the order amassed a 10-1 advantage in the bottom frame off three hits, a walk, and too many errors. Jets' Joe Guerrero ripped an RBI single and K.J. Guerrero stole home in the mix.

A Jets batter takes a cut in last Sunday's Junior League game against IT&E Fielders at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND

Red Sox managed a couple of runs in the top of the fifth off a two-RBI double by Jerald Cabrera, but the Jets got one back in the bottom frame off an RBI base hit by Jonathan Villagomez to put

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Saipan teams drop to consolation round

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan's three bets to the 2011 March Madness Pacific Regional Basketball Championships in Guam will only play in the consolation round today after failing to advance to the playoffs.

The CNMI Nationals missed the playoff

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of 670 Hoopaholics pose for a group photo last week before leaving for Guam for the 2011 March Madness Pacific Regional Basketball Championships.